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East Asia

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Thursday

10 March 1988

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East Asia

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Japan

Aegis System New Source of Friction With U.S.

OW080843 Tokyo MAINICHI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 5 Mar 88 Morning Edition
p 2—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] The U.S. Navy's newest anti-air missile system "Aegis" has surfaced as a new issue in the Japanese-U.S. technological friction in the wake of the adoption by a U.S. congressional subcommittee of a bill calling for a ban on sales of the system to Japan. On 3 March the bill was approved by the Seapower Subcommittee (chairman: Bennett, Democrat) of the U.S. House of Representatives Armed Services Committee.

The Defense Agency is taking a wait-and-see attitude toward the development. An agency source says: "The Aegis system is indispensable to the defense of 1,000 nautical miles of sealanes over which the United States wants Japan to take charge. The United States intends to sell the system. We are aware of U.S. congressional moves against it, but there is no likelihood of the bill securing congressional approval." However, the agency is closely following Washington's moves now that another point of friction has come to the fore, friction that follows on the heels of the next-generation support fighter (FSX) issue.

The bill approved by the subcommittee has its origin in Toshiba Machinery's violation of COCOM (Coordinating Committee for Export Control to Communist Area) rules.

A ban on the sale of the system to Japan was proposed last December by Chairman Bennett, who entertains strong apprehensions about a possible outflow of top military secrets to the communist bloc.

In November, or before the bill was introduced, the subcommittee chairman wrote a letter to then Secretary of Defense Weinberger stating comments to this effect. In the letter, he pointed to the fear of imitation by Japan in addition to the danger of technological information leaking to the communist bloc. He said: "If Japan produces the system domestically, it will be impossible for the United States to maintain its military technological superiority."

In January, the Seapower Subcommittee began holding public hearings in connection with the Aegis sales issue, fomenting a mood against the sale by linking it to the Toshiba Machinery case. However, the U.S. Government, stressing that Japan is capable of preventing the outflow of technology, has been building up a counterargument, saying: "The Aegis ship will make significant contributions to Japan's sealane defense and, from the U.S. position of seeking Japan's buildup of its independent defense capability, it has to be sold."

A Defense Agency source notes that some among the proponents of the bill hold the view that "if Japan purchases it, including the hull, the sale can be approved." He added emphatically: "It seems that views which consider matters in relation to the huge trade deficit with Japan are deep-rooted in the U.S. Congress, but we do hope that they will calmly consider defense as a defense issue."

Takeshita Wants Fresh Beef, Orange Strategy

OW091533 Tokyo JIJI in English 1425 GMT
9 Mar 88—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Tokyo, March 9 (JIJI PRESS)—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita said Wednesday Japan should map out a fresh strategy to deal with the beef and citrus trade dispute with the United States, including an option of import liberalization.

Takeshita gave instructions for a prompt study on Japan's responses when he met with a group of Liberal-Democratic parliamentarians, who visited Washington last week.

Takami Eto, leader of the group, told the prime minister that the United States is sticking to a very tough stance on the beef and orange issue.

A bilateral agreement on import quotas on beef and oranges is to expire at the end of this month. While the Japanese Government wants to continue the import curbs with expanded quotas, the United States is insisting it would not negotiate the larger quotas unless Japan specifies when it will fully liberalize imports.

At a press conference after his meeting with Takeshita, Eto said his delegation could not convince U.S. Administration and congressional leaders of the circumstances that make it infeasible for Japan to liberalize imports of beef and oranges.

The Administration, Congress, farmers and export organizations are all in unison in demanding Japan drop the import curbs, he noted.

U.S. trade representative Clayton Yeutter more than once warned the United States will bring the case to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) unless a satisfactory settlement is worked out before the end of March.

Defense Agency To Push Satellite Air Defense

OW090707 Tokyo THE JAPAN TIMES in English
8 Mar 88 p 3—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] The Defense Agency will accelerate an Integrated Defense Digital Network (IDDN) project from this fiscal year to promote full-fledged use of communications satellites by the Japanese Self-Defense Forces (SDF).



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

U.S. Urged To Reopen Construction Talks

OW100619 Tokyo KYODO in English 0540 GMT
10 Mar 88

[Text] Washington, March 9 KYODO—Japan asked the United States Wednesday to reopen bilateral talks on the construction issue which had ended in deadlock here the previous day, Japanese officials said.

At a luncheon meeting Wednesday with U.S. Commerce Secretary C. William Verity, Japan's Ambassador to the U.S. Nobuo Matsunaga conveyed Japan's consistent hope of a resumption in talks with the U.S. over the latter's request for wider access for American firms to Japanese public works projects, the officials said.

During the meeting Matsunaga stressed that a compromise offered by the government for wider U.S. participation in Japan's seven large-scale projects represents maximum Japanese efforts on the issue.

Verity, however, reiterated that the U.S. will not attend the negotiation table unless Japan showed more flexibility to the U.S. requests.

He said Japanese responses made so far still do not live up to U.S. expectations and Japan needs to exert further efforts on the issue.

No specific schedule for reopening the talks was set at the meeting, the officials said.

Japan hopes to resume talks with the U.S. as early as next week, sources at the Japanese Embassy here said.

The Japanese ambassador also appealed to Verity at the meeting for the U.S. to take a cautious stance in connection with a growing demand in the administration for invoking Section 301 of the 1974 U.S. Trade Act which stipulates reprisals against unfair foreign trade practices, the officials said.

U.S. Senator Calls for Import Liberalization

OW100635 Tokyo KYODO in English 0551 GMT
10 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Japanese leaders renewed their call on Thursday for a settlement to be achieved through further talks to a Japanese-U.S. dispute over beef and orange trade.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi, in a 20-minute meeting with American Senator Max Baucus, reaffirmed Japan's position of wanting an early resumption of beef and orange trade talks, government officials said.

Baucus, leader of the U.S. Congressional Beef Caucus, here on an eight-day visit through Friday, urged Obuchi to liberalize beef imports.

Obuchi, the chief government spokesman and chief of staff for Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, asked the Montana Democrat to urge the U.S. Administration not to file a suit with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade or to take retaliatory action, the officials said.

Liberal Democratic Party Secretary General Shintaro Abe proposed Thursday resuming talks with the United States without any preconditions.

Abe, who met Baucus on Wednesday, told reporters Japan cannot respond to a U.S. request to set a clear timetable for liberalizing beef and orange trade.

The United States, pressing Japan to remove import quotas on beef and oranges, has so far refused to discuss a new agreement to replace the present four-year accord which is due to expire March 31.

Baucus, who has put pressure on Japanese political leaders to liberalize beef imports, is scheduled to meet reporters at the Japan National Press Club and at the U.S. Embassy on Friday.

Soviets Want Deep Cut in Salmon Quota

OW100537 Tokyo KYODO in English 0410 GMT
10 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—The Soviet Union Wednesday proposed not to eliminate, but to slash by 49 percent Japan's salmon catch quota for this year over the 1987 level of the actual catch by Japanese fishing boats on conditions that Japan accept a total ban on offshore salmon fishing in northern waters proposed earlier during Japan-Soviet fishery talks here.

The proposal represents an almost 60-percent reduction of the catch quota over the previous year, since Japan's actual salmon catch of 20,332 tons in 1987 is considerably smaller than that year's catch quota of 24,500 tons.

A piqued official of the Japanese Fisheries Agency termed the proposal "outrageous," while many Japanese participants in the talks were alarmed by the Soviets' recent tough stance.

The Soviet delegate Vyacheslav K. Zilanov urged Japan to consent to the total ban on salmon fishing outside the Soviet 200-mile economic zone at the earliest possible date before 1992, saying he was willing to reconsider the quota once the offshore fishing issue was settled.

He also said the Japanese demand for a catch quota of 30,000 tons was unrealistic, citing an estimate by Soviet scientists which put this year's actual catch by Russian fishing boats at around 70,000 tons, down 49 percent from last year.

Other Russian demands include moving up the final date of operation of Japanese fishing boats by several days, reducing the number of Japanese fishing boats operating within the 200-mile zone, and imposing stricter controls on illegal operations by Japanese boats.

The Japanese delegation countered that offshore fishing is a legal practice permitted by international law, and asked the Soviets to negotiate on the quota and terms of operation without making the settlement of the offshore fishing problem a precondition for the talks.

UN Envoy, Perez de Cuellar Discuss Gulf War

*OW100611 Tokyo KYODO in English 0259 GMT
10 Mar 88*

[Text] New York, March 9 KYODO—Hideo Kagami, Japanese ambassador to the United Nations, held talks with UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the Iran-Iraq war Wednesday.

The Japanese envoy and the UN chief agreed that in view of the current escalating missile attacks on cities by the two warring nations, it is difficult to have them accept the UN Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an immediate ceasefire, according to the Japanese mission at the UN.

The two discussed a second UN resolution including sanctions against the warring countries and other ways for settling the Gulf war, the mission said.

Hong Kong Governor Seeks Help After 1997

*OW100553 Tokyo KYODO in English 0348 GMT
10 Mar 88*

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Hong Kong Governor Sir David Wilson told Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno Thursday that Hong Kong needs Japan's help to maintain its economic development before and after 1997, when China restores sovereignty of the colony from Britain.

Uno, meeting Wilson at the Foreign Ministry for 15 minutes, responded by saying that Japan as a member of the Asia-Pacific region will make efforts to maintain and promote friendly ties with Hong Kong, a Foreign Ministry official said.

Wilson told Uno he is content with the political framework set in a Sino-Anglo agreement which allows Hong Kong to maintain the capital system for 50 years beyond 1997, said the official in a briefing to reporters.

Wilson, currently on a four-day visit to Japan with 14 members of the Hong Kong-Japan Business Cooperation Committee, is scheduled to leave Japan Saturday after meeting Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita Friday.

Takeshita Reaffirms Tax Reform Intent

*OW100629 Tokyo KYODO in English 0602 GMT
10 Mar 88*

[Text] Tokyo, March 10 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, reaffirming his intention to carry out a sweeping tax reform, said Thursday he will dispel worries among the people about a new large-scale indirect tax.

Takeshita said that he is well aware that the Japanese people are concerned about such a tax and that they fear it might impose a heavy burden on the low income bracket, allow an easy rise in tax rates and also encourage inflation.

The prime minister told the Diet that he will tackle these popular worries and establish a taxation system which the majority of the people can understand.

Takeshita was replying at a session of the House of Representatives Budget Committee in response to Tetsu Ueda, a member of the Japan Socialist Party.

Earlier this month, Ueda asked for Takeshita's official position on the planned tax.

Late last year, Takeshita asked a government advisory body to study a sweeping tax reform plan in preparation for Japan's aging society. Both government and Liberal Democratic Party tax panels are currently studying the issue.

Plans Disclosed for Cable Television Tests

*OW081259 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT
8 Mar 88*

[Text] Tokyo, March 8 KYODO—Japan and the United States agreed Tuesday to jointly conduct experiments in broadcasting programs for high-definition television (HDTV) using a cable television system, government officials said Tuesday.

HDTV is a next-generation television technology that provides higher-resolution images than conventional TV systems.

Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Masaaki Nakayama expressed Japan's readiness to provide its HDTV high technology to the United States during a meeting with J. P. Mooney, chairman of the National Cable Television Association (NCTA), the officials said.

Mooney is currently visiting Japan to investigate how Japanese engineers intend to adapt Japan's own HDTV technology—dubbed "high vision"—with CATV [cable television] systems, they said.

The officials quoted Nakayama as telling Mooney that Japan will share its high technology with the U.S. because Japan has received benefits from the U.S. militarily.

More than 50 percent of U.S. television viewers watch CATV programs. More than 80 percent of U.S. CATV broadcasting organizations belong to the NCTA.

North Korea

Paper Criticizes U.S. Military Exercise

SK101030 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT
10 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 10 (KCNA)—MINJU CHO-SON today comments on two-month-long "RIMPAC 88" joint military exercises to be held in the Pacific around Hawaii from June under the command of the U.S. Navy.

The author of the commentary says:

The U.S. imperialists are trying through the "RIMPAC" joint military exercises to further rally their allies and followers militarily to make the Pacific a "lake of the United States" and a sea completely under the U.S. control and to get their aggressive Asia strategy off the ground without difficulty.

They are joined zealously in this by the Japanese reactionaries.

The "RIMPAC 88" joint military exercises to be staged with the United States as the axis are a game of war for invading the DPRK and other Asian socialist countries.

In the "RIMPAC" exercises the U.S. imperialists seek to round off on a larger scale "operations" for blockading and landing on the Straits of Korea and other countries.

Moreover, what should not be overlooked is the fact that they intend to follow through the "Team Spirit 88" war exercises with the "RIMPAC."

It is not hard to gather that in case the U.S. imperialists, who are clamouring about the "event of contingency on the Korean peninsula," unleash a war of aggression in Korea they would embroil in it the armed forces of their allies and followers participating in the "RIMPAC" joint military exercises.

The Korean and other Asian peaceloving people are sharply watching the dangerous military moves of those who are fond of playing with fire.

The war manoeuvres which endanger world peace and security should be discontinued at once.

Meetings Denounce 'Team Spirit' Exercise

SK100421 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0412 GMT
10 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 10 (KCNA)—Workers of the factory and the Pyongyang silk mill and farmers of the Kumchon cooperative farm, Mangyongdae District, held meetings denouncing the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercise.

They said:

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets persistently take a road to a war of aggression in defiance of unanimous opposition and rejection at home and abroad, they will sustain a bitter defeat as in the past Korean War.

A large number of U.S. imperialist armed forces of aggression and their huge war means are being shipped into South Korea to participate in the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercise. This is a very grave criminal act to ignite a fuse of war.

The joint military exercise now being staged in South Korea is, in fact, a declaration of war against our Republic. The U.S. imperialists must stop their frantic war racket at once and go home at an early date, taking along with [them] all the armed forces of aggression before they will sustain a strong retaliation by our people.

Defector Speaks to Domestic, Foreign Reporters

SK100445 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT
10 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 10 (KCNA)—Son Hak-su, a former civilian transport officer at a U.S. Army unit in South Korea, was interviewed by home and foreign reporters at the People's Palace of Culture on March 9.

Son Hak-su, born in Yanji County, Jilin Province, China, returned home in spring, 1948. After graduating from a middle school in Pyongyang, he voluntarily joined the Korean People's Army in July, 1950 and advanced up to Yosu, South Cholla Province. He was wounded in a battle before being captured and taken to a concentration camp in Kojé Island.

He was released from the camp after the armistice and served the "ROK Army" for three years. For seven years later, he wandered about for a job. In 1970, he was employed as a civilian attached to a U.S. Army unit and took charge of transport.

He said:

I often thought that I would die old in South Korea while waiting for the day of reunification. So I was looking for a chance to come over to the DPRK and succeeded in coming here some time ago via more than 10 countries when I was abroad in October last year.

Because I was in charge of transport at a U.S. Army unit for many years, I was well aware that the Yankees were intending to invade the North.

Their preparations for a war against the North are proved by the introduction of large quantities of weapons into South Korea. The freight I dealt with when I was a civilian transport officer at the headquarters of the Second Division of the U.S. forces amounted to more than 50,000 wagons and 200,000 trucks. Most of them were different kinds of weapons, ammunitions, tanks, military trucks and others.

There are more than 100 nuclear weapons including 300-mm nuclear artillery, nuclear tanks and "backpack nuke" in the headquarters of the Second Division of the U.S. forces.

300-mm nuclear artillery has a shooting range as far as the Soviet Union. He recalled words of a U.S. Army captain that these weapons "aim at not only North Korea but Communist China as a whole and Ural region of the Soviet Union".

Son Hak-su went on:

The "Team Spirit" joint military exercises are very dangerous ones which are not a "defence exercise" but an offensive exercise with "landing operations" and "river-crossing" exercises in the main.

Their dangerous nature lies in it that they are nuclear attack exercises. When the exercises begin, the means of nuclear strike of the division, "F 16" group, 300-mm nuclear artillery battalion, battalion of special armored vehicles installed with atomic guns and backpack nuke battalion, are all mobilized.

Anti-U.S. sentiment is growing while anti-communist consciousness is steadily subsiding among the South Korean "ROK" Army. The "ROK" Army soldiers do not like to fight against the North.

Referring to the minds of South Korean people, he stressed that boundless reverence for the great General Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il is prevailing in the South today.

Asked about his impressions of Pyongyang 38 years after, he expressed a great admiration for the change of Pyongyang, which was reduced to ashes during the war, into a big city of world standard.

Nowhere in the world I can find such a people's paradise as the North, he said, and stressed:

Witnessing the reality of the North, I have deeply grasped the great leadership ability of respected General Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il.

Pressure on South To Open Markets Continues

*SK100427 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0415 GMT
10 Mar 88*

[Text] Pyongyang March 10 (KCNA)—U.S. trade representative Yeutter, speaking at the South Korea-U.S. Society in New York on March 2, pressed the South Korean puppets again to open markets, according to a report.

He urged the South Korean puppets to take steps for allowing the import of U.S. beefs, potatoes and other agricultural and livestock products, abolishing the control of license for the production of foreign enterprises in pharmacy, ensuring free cigarette sale and free bank advertisement and public services. He threatened that the U.S. attitude towards the puppets would be decided according to their results. And he said that he would, if necessary, invoke the U.S. "commercial law", an evil law on declaring sanctions any time under the plea of "unfair trade".

During his visit to South Korea in February, U.S. Secretary of Treasury Baker pressed the traitor No Tae-u at a meeting with him to open markets to cigarettes, agricultural and livestock products, finance and capital.

Senior swindlers of U.S. imperialists pressed the traitor No Tae-u by turns, giving him a hint that he might be removed from the "presidential" chair which he took with frauds, in case he fails to satisfy their demand.

Yeutter's utterances show that the predatory intention of burglars cannot change but will grow stronger.

Press Comment on Proposal for N-S Conference

*SK100451 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT
10 Mar 88*

[Text] Pyongyang March 10 (KCNA)—The chairman of the preparatory committee of the North side to a North-South joint conference on March 8 sent a letter to the persons in authority, political parties, public organizations and people of all social standings in South Korea. He expressed in his letter regret at the fact that a preliminary meeting for a North-South joint conference the North proposed to hold at Panmunjom on February 1 failed to open owing to the wrong anti-dialogue, anti-peace attitude of the South Korean authorities, and proposed once again to hold a preliminary meeting at the afore-said place on March 28.

This is a clear manifestation of the firm stand and sincere efforts of our side to turn the situation on the Korean peninsula this year in favour of peace of the

country and its peaceful reunification with concerted efforts with the political and public figures in South Korea, stress papers here today.

NODONG SINMUN says in a signed commentary:

In view of the urgency of the problem to be discussed and settled at the conference and in view of the reasonableness of the method of talks and the time of the proposal for negotiation, our proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference is a very fair and realistic proposal for national salvation and a disinterested nation-saving measure proceeding from the patriotic spirit and peace-loving stand. The South Korean puppets are deliberately laying obstacles in the way of convening a joint conference, keeping from formally answering our letter proposing a dialogue through a normal channel between the North and the South.

Owing to the South Korean puppets' manoeuvres against dialogue, peace and reunification, antagonism and confrontation between the North and the South have now reached an extreme pitch and a tense situation which may lead to the outbreak of a war at any moment has been created on the Korean peninsula.

It is high time for the responsible figures of the political and public circles of both sides to come out to the sacred nation-saving movement for arranging a negotiating place, the place for great national unity, at which they would pool the will of the fellow countrymen, because mistrust and confrontation reached an extreme pitch between the North and the South.

Some time ago, there was an opinion in South Korea a "spring of reconciliation" should be brought about in the area along the military demarcation line, too, saying "the door of dialogue is kept open at any time and any place." If this is true, there is no reason for the South Korean authorities to refuse to accept our proposal for negotiation intended to solve the urgent problem facing the nation.

The South Korean authorities must discontinue at once their treacherous acts inciting confrontation and war at the aggressive instigation of the outside forces, put an end to the manoeuvres disrupting the convocation of a North-South joint conference and come out readily to the preliminary meeting for a joint conference.

The author of a MINJU CHOSON commentary says: If the South Korean authorities continue to advance along the road of treachery laying obstacles in the way of convening a North-South joint conference and pursuing the belligerent and confrontation policy, they will surely commit a bigger crime against the nation.

Commentary on South Failure To Reply

SK100545 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
0007 GMT 10 Mar 88

[NODONG SINMUN 10 March commentary: "Pan-National Stage for Dialogue Must Be Provided"]

[Text] On 8 March, the chairman of the North side's preparatory committee for a North-South joint conference sent a letter to the South Korean authorities, various political parties and social organizations, and individual people from all walks of life.

In the letter, our side expressed its regret over the fact that even though the letter—dated 13 January and signed by the joint conference of the DPRK Central People's Committee and State Administration Council and various political parties and social organizations—proposed holding preliminary talks for a North-South joint conference in Panmunjom on 19 February, preliminary talks could not be held because of the South Korean authorities' wrongful antidiologue, antipeace attitude. Recognizing that a North-South joint conference must be convened without delay not only in view of the demand of the prevailing situation but also in view of the nation's desire to open a phase for peace in the country and for peaceful reunification, our side also cordially proposed again to hold a North-South joint conference in Panmunjom on 28 March. This is another clear expression of our side's firm stand and sincere efforts to turn the situation on the Korean peninsula, which is at the crossroads of war and peace, into one decisively favorable to peace in the country and to peaceful reunification at all costs by joining in the efforts of South Korean political and social circles.

As is known, out of a desire to provide a new turning point in national reconciliation and unity this year, we proposed to convene, at the earliest date, a North-South joint conference attended by the persons in authority, representatives of various political parties and social organizations, and individual people from all walks of life in the North and the South, and to discuss and resolve, in the conference, the issue of discontinuing the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise and other large-scale military exercises; the issue of arranging multinational arms reduction talks; the issue of North-South cosponsorship of the XXIV Olympic Games, irrespective of the stipulated deadline for application for the Olympic games; and the issue of the cessation of slandering and defiling each other. Our proposal to convene a North-South joint conference is a very just and realistic one for national salvation, not only in view of the urgency of the issues that will be discussed and resolved in the talks, but also in view of the reasonableness of the talks formula and the timelessness of the proposal of negotiations. Also, it is an unselfish measure for national salvation rising out of a patriotic spirit and peace-loving stand. For this very reason, not only all the Korean

people in the North and the South, but also the fair public opinion of the world, highly evaluate our patriotic proposal and hope that it will be realized at the earliest date.

Reflecting such a desire and the expectations of the peoples at home and abroad, we have already prepared for the conference, including discussing the issue of organizing a delegation to be dispatched to preliminary talks; have taken measures to confirm whether the letter was delivered; and have patiently waited for an affirmative reply. However, the persons in authority in South Korea have not sent any letter in reply to our letter as of today, when 50-odd days have passed since they received it. The South Korean puppets, while not sending in a normal way any formal reply to the letter that was sent through normal channels and proposed dialogue, are building artificial barriers to convening a North-South joint conference. On receiving our letter, to block the influence of our proposal to convene a North-South joint conference and to build barriers to convening a North-South joint conference, the South Korean puppet ruling bunch embarked upon the road toward aggravating confrontation by announcing the so-called results of the investigation into the passenger plane incident, with which we have nothing to do. More serious is the fact that at a time when we proposed discussing the issue of discontinuing large-scale military exercises, the South Korean puppets, together with the United States, began the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise against us, thus further aggravating tension on the Korean peninsula. We cannot but term the South Korean ruling bunch's response to their fellow countrymen's proposal for dialogue by conducting a nuclear war exercise in collusion with an outside force, as an antinational and antipeace crime that very much contradicts our stand of trying to provide a new turning point in peaceful reunification by achieving national reconciliation and unity.

Because of the South Korean puppets' maneuvers rejecting dialogue, peace, and reunification, enmity and confrontation between the North and the South are at their worst, and a tense situation in which a war may break out anytime is being promoted on the Korean peninsula. Is this grave situation necessary for, or favorable to, either the North or the South? Historic facts clearly show to what serious disasters and tragedies the road toward confrontation and war has subjected our nation. Prevailing circumstances make all the Korean people, who were born in this land, worry about the destiny of the nation. The North and the South, which are of the same race, must no longer be hostile to or confront each other and must probe ways to live peacefully after being reconciled and united as fellow countrymen, even if the reunification of the country cannot be realized at once. Mistrust and confrontation between the North and the South are at their worst right now. This is the very time when responsible personages of political and social circles of both sides should rise up in the noble movement for national salvation in order to provide a negotiation stage—where the opinions of fellow countrymen are collected—and a plaza for greater national unity.

Political parties, organizations, individuals from all walks of life, and the South Korean people who hope for national reconciliation and unity and who yearn for peace and reunification, squarely seeing the ruling bunch's maneuvers to monopolize and politically use North-South dialogue, must adamantly oppose and reject their policy of confrontation and war and must endeavor to provide a new turning point in national reconciliation and unity, peace, and peaceful reunification, after breaking the deadlock facing the nation. It is stated in South Korea that the door to dialogue is always open anywhere and that the spring of reconciliation must be brought about also along the military demarcation line. If this is true, the South Korean authorities have no reason not to respond to our negotiations proposal to resolve the urgent issues facing the nation. The persons in authority in South Korea must immediately stop committing the antinational acts of pursuing confrontation and war by following the aggressive demand of the outside force, must stop maneuvering to hinder convening a North-South joint conference, and must willingly come to preliminary talks for a North-South joint conference. If the South Korean ruling bunch, running counter to the nation's desire for peace and reunification, rejects our proposal to convene a North-South joint conference and continuously embarks upon the road toward confrontation and war, they will be held fully responsible for all the consequences that will arise from this.

Further Comment on Conference

SK100655 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
1150 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil:
"They Should Show an Affirmative Response"]

[Text] According to reports, letters from Comrade Ho Tam, chairman of the preparatory committee of the North side for a North-South joint conference, to South Korean authorities, political parties, public organizations, and individual personages, were conveyed to the South Korean side by liaisons from our side in Panmunjom on 8 March.

In the letters, noting that a preliminary meeting has not been yet held to convene a North-South joint conference, Comrade Ho Tam once again cordially proposed to the South Korean side the holding of a preliminary meeting for a North-South joint conference on 28 March in Panmunjom.

This is another expression of our sincere efforts to open a new phase in the country's peace and reunification by eliminating tension between the North and the South and achieving reconciliation and unity by all means.

As has already been made public, on 13 January, we had previously sent to the South Korean authorities, political parties, public organizations, and individual personages, letters that contained a concrete proposal for convening

a North-South joint conference. In the letters, we proposed holding a preliminary meeting for convening a North-South joint conference on 19 February in Panmunjom.

Since then, we have formed a delegation to the preliminary meeting and have actively carried out preparatory work for the meeting. In doing so, we patiently waited for an affirmative reply from the South Korean side.

Nonetheless, the South Korean authorities have sent no formal response in any normal way to the letters containing our proposal for a North-South joint conference, but have created artificial barriers to the convocation of a joint conference.

Immediately after receiving our letters, the puppets announced the so-called results of an investigation of the passenger plane incident, which has absolutely nothing to do with us, and have aggravated North-South confrontation. At the same time, just as we are proposing discussion of the question of halting large-scale military exercises, they are staging with the United States the largest "Team Spirit-88" war exercise in history, bringing the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

At present, the U.S. imperialists are extensively bringing their Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine units into South Korea from the U.S. mainland and the Asian and Pacific region, and the aggressive forces, which have already been brought into South Korea, are being transferred to and deployed in operational areas adjacent to the military demarcation line.

Because of the "Team Spirit-88" war exercise commotion staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, the South Korean skies, land, and seas have literally been turned into battle sites. A tense situation, in which the tinderbox of war can explode at any moment, has been created in our country.

The maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets diametrically contradict our stand of achieving national reconciliation and unity, and are acts that go completely against the aspirations of the nation for a North-South joint conference.

In view of the demands of the prevailing situation on the Korean peninsula, as well as in view of the desire of the nation to open a phase for the country's peace and peaceful reunification, a North-South joint conference should be convened without delay.

Our nation should, above all, seek ways to achieve reconciliation and unity as compatriots, even if it is unable to achieve reunification of the fatherland at once. It should, first of all, seek ways to live in peace, even if it is unable to enjoy wealth and prosperity in a unified fatherland.

Judging from this point of view, now, as antagonism and confrontation have reached the worst stage, is indeed the time for responsible personages of political and social circles of the two sides to provide a stage for negotiations where a consensus of opinion of the entire nation can be reached.

A North-South joint conference will become precisely the most adequate way to negotiate and through which the general opinion of the people of all strata, all parties, and all factions in the North and South can be synthesized.

Our proposal for a North-South joint conference is also reflective of the opinion of the South Korean political parties, organizations, and individual personages who have called for their direct participation in a North-South dialogue.

There should be no reason or grounds whatsoever for our proposal not to be accepted.

If the persons in authority in the North and South, representatives of political parties and public organizations, and individual personages get together at one place and negotiate open-mindedly, the pending difficulties that face the nation can be overcome, and a new opportunity for national reconciliation and unity can be provided.

No one should turn away from our proposal for a North-South joint conference or hesitate to turn out in the plaza of pan-national dialogue, if he is truly concerned about the destiny of the country and nation.

A positive attitude toward our proposal for a North-South joint conference will become a touchstone that will show who truly desires the country's peace and peaceful reunification.

The South Korean authorities should take the road of national reconciliation and unity, not the road of confrontation and war. They should affirmatively respond to our proposal for a North-South joint conference.

University Students in South Listen to VNS
SK100115 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT
9 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 9 (KCNA)—Students of Korea University and other universities in Seoul had conducted activities to arm themselves with the revolutionary idea of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-sung ever under strict surveillance and suppression by the fascist clique. This was made known to stir up South Korean people of broad segments, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The students of the Korea and Yonsei Universities in Seoul who formed the Anti-U.S. Youth Association in November last year listened to the New Year address of

the great leader over radio "Voice of National Salvation" and conducted awakening activity to arm its members with the proposals for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and the ways of making the South Korean society independent and democratic, which were advanced at the New Year address.

Frightened at their awakening activity, the No Tae-u fascist clique charged the Anti-U.S. Youth Association with being an "organisation" that guided the struggle for occupying the "U.S. Information Service" in Seoul on February 24, and hurriedly put on the "want list" Korea University student certain Cho, chairman of the organization, Yonsei University student certain Kim and arrested on charge of violation of the "national security law" four students including Chang Won-sop, a member of the Seoul district guidance committee and student who stays out of Korea University.

South Korea

General Election Said Likely on 26 April

SK101149 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
10 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] In a party-government coordination meeting held on 9 March, the government and the DJP tentatively decided to hold the general election on 26 April and to make public the decision early next week, after obtaining President No Tae-u's approval.

According to a high-ranking DJP official, participants in the party-government meeting agreed that the general election should be held as late as possible, within the boundary of the time stipulated by the law, in that the government and the DJP need considerable time to provide provisions for execution of the National Assembly Law that centers on a single-lawmaker constituency system; to increase the number of polling booths and vote-counting stations in proportion to the drastically increased number of electoral districts; to appoint people to the Central Election Management Committee; and to train the people who will work at the polling booths and vote-counting stations.

Chairman of the DJP Chae Mun-sik said: Our party had to choose between two different sets of dates—mid-April and the latter half of April. However, with the electoral districts changed from a two-lawmaker constituency to a single-lawmaker system, we find it impossible to hold the general elections earlier, as the government has so many things to do before the general elections. This being the case, we decided that the general elections can be held in the latter half of April.

In this regard, a government official said: We first discussed whether to hold the general elections on 26 April or on 28 April. In the end we decided to hold the general elections on 26 April.

Relatives of No Relinquish Campaign Plans

SK100107 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Mar 88 p 2

[From the "Press Pocket" column: "Presidential Relatives"]

[Text] Two relatives of President No Tae-u have recently given up running for the National Assembly, it was learned yesterday. They are Kim Pok-tong, brother of the First Lady and former president of the Korean Mining Promotion Corporation, and Kum Chin-ho, husband of the First Lady's sister and former trade-industry minister.

Kim, who had earlier shown his intention to come forward as an independent candidate in Taegu, acknowledged yesterday that the President persuaded him to scrap the plan.

However, he said, "It was not the President's pressure that caused me to decide. I was just afraid that it might be harmful to the President if I stand for the Assembly against his will."

President No promised during his campaigning in December that he would bar his relatives from taking office or standing for the House.

Kum, who wanted to run in Yongju, Kyongsangpukdo with a DJP ticket, also abandoned the plan after he met with the President weeks ago along with Kim.

A source close to Kim denied that Kim would be picked up later as ambassador to Japan or president of the Pohang Iron and Steel Company.

Kim Chong-pil Seeks Hometown Candidacy

SK100117 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Kim Chong-pil, president of the New Democratic Republican Party [NDRP], declared yesterday that he would run for the National Assembly in Puyo, his hometown in Chungchongnam-do.

He had been pondering for some time to run in a Seoul district.

"In foreign countries, candidate who has served premiership usually seeks people's confidence in his hometown," he said.

But Kim advised some party members to run in Seoul to test the party's confidence in the capital."

They are vice president Choe Chae-ku, secretary general Kim Yong-chae and Han Pyong-ki, former ambassador to the United Nations.

Yi Hu-rak, former chief of the Central Intelligence Agency, who was known to be seeking NDRP candidacy, suddenly got out of contact with the party and was rumored that he was preparing to leave for the United States.

Kim Tae-chung Ambition Thwarts Party Merger
SK100105 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Mar 88 p 2

[By staff reporter Sin Hak-nim]

[Text] The month-long efforts for the merger of the two major opposition parties are facing the prospect of having been all in vain due to internal disunity in the Reunification Democratic Party and Kim Tae-chung's ambition for opposition leadership.

The president of the Party for Peace and Democracy refused again yesterday afternoon to give a positive response to the RDP's demand for his immediate resignation from the party leadership in a press conference.

Instead, the PPD president offered a new proposal of co-leadership of a unified party by himself and his archrival Kim Yong-sam, until the end of the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Kim Tae-chung had sought permanent co-leadership by the two Kims but withdrew the proposal in the face of strong objections from the RDP and the minor "Hangyora" group.

The status of Kim Tae-chung and the type of leadership assumed by the unified party has been the bone of contention preventing the merger of the two parties and the Hangyora group.

The small parliamentary constituency system, which was supported by the PPD but was initially opposed by the RDP, was another divisive issue until it was finally pushed through in a plenary House session by the government party for the forthcoming general elections Tuesday. [as published]

The major opposition party will clarify its final position over the projected opposition integration after a joint meeting of key post-holders and negotiators today.

But the prevailing mood in the RDP is that a merger with the PPD is impossible as long as PPD president Kim attempts to retain his opposition leadership.

To make the situation worse, the RDP is suffering serious internal disunity triggered by a revolt by several lawmakers led by floor leader Kim Hyong-kyu opposing the position of Kim Yong-sam who forced his party to accept the small parliamentary district formula.

The tenacious objections of a dozen lawmakers from rural districts to the small constituency system foiled the joint initiation of an amendment to the Parliamentary Election Law agreed upon between the two Kims.

It has made PPD president Kim and his colleagues doubt the sincerity of the RDP in seeking the opposition integration.

RDP officials loyal to Kim Yong-sam suspect that the lawmakers led by floor leader Kim might have colluded with the ruling camp to create internal trouble in the RDP to accelerate the complete withdrawal of Kim Yong-sam from politics.

The Kim Yong-sam supporters claim that the maverick lawmakers, mostly from Kyongsangpuk-to and Chungchong Provinces, will obstruct the on-going efforts for the opposition merger to the last minute.

Meanwhile, lawmakers from Kyongsangnam-do and Pusan, the power base of Kim Yong-sam, are also not so enthusiastic about the merger with the PPD in the forthcoming general elections.

They said that they will get less support from the electorate in their districts who feel animosity toward the PPD and its president Kim in case of a merger with the PPD.

Most RDP members are also skeptical of the plausibility of the PPD president's proposal that the rival parties decide on single parliamentary candidates as an alternative to a merger.

Signs are that the rival parties will not declare the rupture of integration efforts so as not to have to bear responsibility for it but will just go their own ways for the general elections.

The last remaining chance for a break-through toward an opposition integration will be a meeting between the two Kims but neither of them have appeared positive about trying it all over again.

NPH Task Forces To Monitor Electioneering
SK100159 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
10 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] As parliamentary elections are drawing near, police plan to step up efforts to clamp down on illegal and premature campaigns, the National Police Headquarters (NPH) announced yesterday.

"The national police will be positioned to effectively deal with election law violations," said the announcement.

It said police bureaus at major cities and provinces will set up a task force each to exclusively deal with suspected violations of the National Assembly Election Law.

The plan was contained in the NPH-provided police guidelines for coping with unlawful electioneering.

Police will also not slacken their drive against violent crime, which is on the rapid rise in major cities, an NPH officer said.

The election-related crackdown will be carried out in three phases, premature campaigns, unlawful electioneering after election day is announced and malpractices in the course of balloting and counting.

Under any circumstances, the officer said, violence at stumping sites will be dealt sternly with.

During the Dec. 16 presidential election campaigns, there were numerous violent demonstrations and protests against both the ruling and opposition party candidates.

To be clamped down on as premature electioneering are distribution of booklets and other printed material publicizing the academic and working backgrounds of would-be candidates and presentation of gifts and medals to potential voters.

Lawmaker aspirants will also be banned from organizing financial support groups for themselves and making donations to constituents, hometown buddies' clubs and groups of the same family tree.

Police will document evidence of suspected law violations. For this purpose they will take pictures of evidence or take testimony of witnesses.

Crackdowns following the announcement of election day will focus on assaults at stumping sites, candidates' visits to homes of voters and presentation of money to voters.

Personal attacks on candidates will be discouraged along with the act of slandering.

Voting by proxy and "interference" in balloting will be ferreted out when voting begins, the NPH said.

Police will keep watch on other disorderly acts at voting and counting booths.

So far, few premature campaigns have been detected by authorities. An opposition party member in Panwol, Kyonggi-do, has recently filed a complaint with the prosecution alleging that a ruling party affiliate aspiring to run in the coming elections doled out gifts, including soap, toothpaste and towels, to potential voters on the occasion of lunar New Year's Day which was Feb. 18.

Yi Pyong-ki Named to Post in No's Cabinet
SK100249 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] The government yesterday appointed Yi Pyong-ki, assistant to the president of the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP), as a secretary for protocol to President No Tae-u.

Yi, 41, a career diplomat, has played an important [as published] in No's electioneering and the subsequent government transition.

Cabinet Ministers To Get Appointment Power
SK100143 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] The presidential authority for appointing and transferring ranking government officials will be delegated to Cabinet ministers.

According to the Government Administration Ministry yesterday, Cabinet ministers will exercise the substantive right to appoint, promote and transfer officials of the first to the third grade.

Ministerial decisions on appointments will be finally confirmed at the Central Promotion Screening Committee.

The committee is to be headed by the vice government administration minister and composed of five to seven officials from ministries concerned.

So far, the appointment of ranking officials has been decided upon by the President based on recommendation by relevant ministers and presidential secretaries. The Central Promotion Screening Committee has only played the role of a rubber stamp body.

The President will appoint Cabinet ministers, vice ministers and provincial governors who will be chosen by the President through consultations with the prime minister as provided by the Constitution.

Government Administration Minister Kim Yong-kap told reporters that the chiefs of government affiliated organizations will be given free hand in appointing their own executive staff.

He added that some of the presidential rights to approve management personnel will be delegated to the prime minister and Cabinet ministers.

The prime minister is to endorse the transfer of first grade officials, senior prosecutors and superintendent generals of the police as well as the appointment and dismissal of prosecutors and professors at national universities.

The prime minister will confer the letter of appointment to newly-named vice minister-level officials and other ranking officials.

Power Delegation Part of New Order
SK100047 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Mar 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Transfer of Authority"]

[Text] A considerable change is taking place in the administration. The government announced yesterday that the President will delegate some substantial amount of his power in terms of personnel decisions to the Prime Minister, while the latter transfers his power to other ministers. The measure appears to translate President No Tae-u's election pledge that he would transfer presidential power to his subordinates into practice.

As a result of the measure that comes on the heels of the Cabinet formation, first, the Presidential authority to transfer first class government officials, high prosecutors and police commissioners, and appoint ordinary prosecutors and national university professors will be placed in the hands of the prime minister; second, the education minister will take over prime minister's right to appoint or dismiss or transfer associate professors, school inspectors, and principals of middle and high schools; and third, the home affairs minister will be given the premier's authority to appoint or promote police superintendents and police majors. In addition, all other ministers will have rights to transfer career officials between classes one to three.

The delegation of personnel administrative power is apparently aimed at firm establishment of the career official system and invigoration of the Cabinet function. Surely, the new step is a good start toward the professed democratic reform of the bureaucracy through the decentralization of administrative power so far excessively concentrated in the hands of the President, in a symbolic representation of authoritarian rule.

One other most striking feature of the measure is the abolishing of the so-called prior consultation system between Cabinet members and Presidential secretaries, through which the President virtually exercised exclusive rights with regard to the appointment, transfer and promotion of almost all important government officials. The reach of the notorious practice extended as far as the status of management staff of state-run enterprises.

With this new measure, one legacy of the old regime will be cleared away in conformity with the new political order. To reap good results from this act, efficient use of the new system is desirable in a manner that does not repeat the trials and errors of the past and allows it to take sound root in officialdom.

No Tells Cabinet To Ease Travel Restrictions
SK100155 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] President No Tae-u told the Cabinet yesterday to study ways of further easing restrictions on overseas travel, particularly for young people including students.

No directed Prime Minister Yi Hyon-chae to work out a comprehensive scheme to liberalize overseas travel on a phased basis and report back to him at an early date, presidential spokesman Yi Su-chung said.

President No noted the importance of expanding chances for overseas trip for students to help them keep pace with the rapidly-changing international scene.

Overseas trips are currently allowed for persons aged 40 or more.

No was quoted as saying that overseas trips help youths to attain broad knowledge for national development as they can see for themselves how other peoples build their own countries.

He went on to say that government policies for overseas travel should be focused on educational effects, not simply looking at it as a means of spending foreign currencies.

No added that overseas trips will may considerably help instil patriotism into the hearts of youth.

With the special instruction from the Chief Executive, relevant ministries are closely consulting with each other to map out programs to drastically expand chances for overseas trip by youths.

Officials said that the expansion of overseas travel will not greatly influence the foreign exchange situation of the country in view of continuing surplus in international trade.

The continuing surplus in international payments is widely pointed out as a major ingredient fanning inflation, which is feared for its power to shake economic stability.

The expansion of overseas trips is one of the major pledges No made during the electioneering period. Since inauguration as President, No has repeatedly instructed the Cabinet to translate into practice various election pledges presented by the ruling party.

Minister, Lilley on Trade, Olympic Security

SK100121 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
10 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] U.S. antiterrorism experts will help Korean officials in working out ways to protect the Seoul Olympics from terrorist acts, Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su said yesterday.

The government has invited American experts handling terrorism-related matters for consultations in Seoul, he said.

Choe met U.S. Amb. James Lilley and discussed cooperation for the Olympics, disputes over the opening of Korean beef markets and other matters.

"We have reviewed the developments of overall relations between the two countries following the inauguration of a new Korean government," he told reporters after the 40-minute talks with Lilley.

Also discussed were strategies to bring about sanctions against North Korea for the destruction of a KAL jet last November, in a board of directors meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization now going on in Montreal.

Touching on trade matters, Choe said both agreed on the principle that trade issues should be resolved through close consultations between the two governments.

"Based on the principle, we agreed on concrete ways of conducting future negotiations," said Choe. He did not elaborate on the agreement.

Choe said he also expressed his interest in the U.S.-Chinese foreign ministers' talks in Washington.

"We also agreed to intensify consultations in various fields in order to help foster a mature partnership between the two countries," he added.

'Brutal' Yeutter Attack Mirrors U.S. Trade Policy

SK092203 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
9 Mar 88 p 6

[Article by economic editor Yu Chin-su under the rubric "News in Review": Is ROK Killing Goose That Lays Golden Egg?]

[Text] As trade between Korea and the United States grows, so do trade disputes. And so do the crucial ripple effects of anti-Americanism in this country, long-standing ally of the United States.

The trade issue has triggered anti-American sentiment. Now the growing anti-American fervor is spreading out of campuses and cattle farmlands into various strata of society.

The anti-American feeling was demonstrated recently when a group of "U.S. economic invasion"-shouting students occupied the U.S. Information Service Library in Seoul. Earlier a stream of cattle farmers staged frequent rallies to protest the planned import of U.S. beef.

Riveting our keen interest at this time of escalating Korean resentment is the sharp remark made by U.S. Trade Representative Clayton Yeutter at a meeting of the Korea-U.S. Society in New York last week.

In a prepared speech, Yeutter threatened a trade reprisal against Korea and the other Asian countries unless they stopped what he claimed to be unfair trade practices.

"Countries that have benefited from the relatively open markets of the United States are in danger of killing the goose that lays their golden egg if they do not liberalize their trade policies," Yeutter said.

According to Yeutter Korea has made increasing inroads on its old industrial mentor, the United States, strengthening its economic muscle over the past 40 years.

So Korea has become America's seventh biggest trading partner and the source of America's fifth biggest bilateral trade deficit, he said.

To compensate the U.S. loss, Yeutter said, Korea should play fairly and clear its barriers to U.S. goods and services. They included beef, cigarettes, insurance, farm products, banking, shipping, computers, telecommunication, aircraft engines, automobiles and nearly all other kinds of industries.

His remarks at the question-and-answer session in New York was likened to an ultimatum to the Korean economy. Yeutter did not mince matters in his sniping at Korea.

"Yeutter was playing the bully" intoned a Korean businessman who participated in the New York meeting. "I felt strongly a feeling of national affront in the meeting with Yeutter."

Of significance is that the meeting was requested by Yeutter himself at a time when the anti-Americanism was growing. And Yeutter's brutal attack on Korean trade policy was made immediately after the inauguration of a new Korean government.

The well-prepared offensive by the U.S. Trade Representative mirrors future U.S. trade policy toward the Seoul government, observers said.

Now, the United States is striving to exploit the principle of reciprocity in trade and mutual cooperation for international economic order in relations with the fragile Korean economy—to reduce the snowballing trade deficit with Korea.

Bitterly disappointing is the fact that the United States is taking the same tough trade line with its weaker partners as it did with such economic giants as Japan and West Germany.

In the speech, Yeutter spelled out the strong U.S. determination not to budge an inch in its trade negotiations with Korea.

However, the Korean economy has not grown up as much as stated by the U.S. Trade Representative. The Korean economy began to record a current-account surplus in 1986. Faced with many economic problems including a huge foreign debt worth \$35 billion, the economy is not mature enough to stand on its own feet and open its doors wide to foreign imports.

It was not until last year that the nation managed to score a gross national product of more than \$3,000 per capita.

These days, the Korean economy has become a political football in the United States. One U.S. congressman, Richard Gephardt, exaggerated the height of Korea's trade barriers to woo votes on the campaign trail. Despite great anger in Korea, Gephardt has emerged as a favorite in the race for the presidential nomination of the Democratic Party.

Activities by both Gephardt and Yeutter raised the question whether the United States can maintain the mantle of economic leadership.

The United States was virtually unchallenged as the greatest industrial leader on the globe until the mid-1970s. Since then, the strong U.S. economic train has begun to derail.

Main culprit in the declining American economy is lagging productivity and deteriorating competitiveness. The soaring budget and trade deficits have forced the United States to become the biggest debtor country.

The United States and its rivals have failed to find a breakthrough in global trade and are resorting to rampant protectionism.

Once the United States decides to get tough with the export-driven Korean economy, the Seoul government stands on a crucial watershed, deciding how to counter the tough trade policy.

However, the foregone conclusion is that the vulnerable Korean economy cannot resist the economic superpower. Korea is required to adapt itself to the changing economic environment.

Government Rejects Visits by JSP Members
*OW100335 Tokyo KYODO in English 0256 GMT
10 Mar 88*

[Text] Seoul, March 10 KYODO—Pak Sun-kil, first assistant minister of foreign affairs, Wednesday criticized that Takako Doi, chairwoman of the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) is pro-North Korean.

Pak said South Korea cannot accept visits by JSP members at present, though he acknowledged that the largest opposition party in Japan is showing signs of correcting its policy on South Korea.

But South Korea cannot allow such visits unless the JSP acknowledges the legitimacy of the South Korean government and initiates viable and just measures for a policy shift from what he described as a pro-Pyongyang stance.

JSP is moving toward a policy shift on Korea and Chairwoman Doi and other party members hope to visit South Korea.

Pak showed a rather negative response on whether the Seoul government will issue a visa to Kenjiro Kawamata, JSP member of the lower house, who wants to visit here as a member of Japanese parliamentarians having close relations with the Japanese sports circle.

The government will study the matter on a case-by-case basis but it will have to consider his status as a JSP member, Pak said.

Commenting on a recent remark about another JSP lower house member, Issei Inoue, who said the KAL airliner incident last November was a North Korean crime, Pak said it was merely Inoue's personal view and demanded the JSP's official stance on the KAL incident.

Japan To Ask Halt of Import Diversification
*SK100151 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Mar 88 p 6*

[From the "Business News in Brief" column: "Japan Asks Korea Not To Change Import Sources"]

[Text] Japan is expected to call on Korea to end its policy of diversifying import sources away from it, sources said yesterday.

Japan is also likely to request the Seoul government to cut the rising textile exports to the country, the sources said.

The sources said the Japanese requests would be made at the 15th Korea-Japan ministerial meeting and a bilateral working-level trade meeting scheduled for the first half of this year in Seoul.

The recent boost in textile exports to Japan is mainly due to their good quality and the rising competitiveness as a result of the appreciation of the Japanese yen.

PRC Makes Contacts on Patents, Trademarks
SK100207 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Mar 88 p 6

[Text] Industrial properties such as patents and trademarks are likely to be registered at each other's authorities between Korea and China.

A source at the Office of Patents Administration yesterday said that the two governments have been contacting for protection of industrial property rights at each other's country through international private organizations such as the Association of Industrial Property Protection (AIPP):

The contact has come out in the wake of probable increase of trade as the trade pattern has been changed to direct form from past indirect one, the source said.

A Hong Kong-based state-run corporation of China in charge of industrial property registration asked the Korean chapter of AIPP in February whether or not Chinese patents and trademarks will be allowed to be registered with the Korean authorities, the source said.

The source said that the government is determined to allow the registration of Chinese patents equally with those of domestic people under the principle of equal treatment based on the Paris pact. Korea and China have joined the Paris convention.

The source also said that the government has also accepted the registration of industrial property rights from Communist countries such as Yugoslavia, Poland and Hungary without diplomatic relations with Korea.

The administration has already sent a reply to the Chinese authorities affirmatively, the source said.

Further on Patents

SK100859 Seoul YONHAP in English
0844 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 10 (YONHAP)—A direct application by a Chinese national for the protection of patents and trademarks in South Korea would be treated on equal footing with an application made by a Korean national, sources at the Korean Office of Patents Administration said Thursday.

The Patents Administration's equal treatment of possible Chinese applications for the protection of their industrial property will be in accordance with the Paris convention. The international convention stipulates that signatories are to guarantee mutual protection of foreign

industrial property on a reciprocal basis. Seoul has no diplomatic relations with Beijing, but the two countries are among the 97 signatories of the 105-year-old Paris convention.

The Patents Administration's stance is in response to the request made by a Hong Kong-based organization in charge of patent affairs in mainland China about whether a direct patent application by Chinese nationals would be registered with the Korean Office of Patents Administration and whether it would be officially accepted.

A South Korean patent attorney's office in Seoul received the request in February from the office of China's patent agent in Hong Kong, according to the sources. China's patent agent has a branch office in Beijing and a liaison office in Shanghai.

Chinese authorities, however, have not yet revealed their official position on three patent applications filed by South Koreans.

A South Korean patent attorney, who asked not to be identified, says that the Korean Office of Patents Administration registered an application filed in January 1986 by a Chinese national residing in Hong Kong.

South Korea has so far accepted a total of 188 patent applications made by nine communist-bloc nations including Yugoslavia, Hungary and Poland, according to the sources.

The indirect trade volume between South Korea and China was estimated at some 1.5 billion U.S. dollars in 1986 and is expected to expand sharply in the years ahead.

Article Views Labor Relations, Joining ILO

SK100231 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES (LABOR DAY SUPPLEMENT) in English 10 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] Korea has endeavored, for more than ten years, to be a member of the International Labor Organization (ILO). Though Korea is already a member of all other 14 international politics between North and South Korea and between the free world and the communist nations, as well as cumbersome admissions procedures, have barred Korea from joining the organization to date.

Non-UN members as Korea must get support from more than two thirds of the total representatives, including more than two thirds of the government representatives participating in the Conference to become a member of the International Labor Organization (Clause 4, Article 1, ILO Constitution). North Korea has opposed not only simultaneous admission with the Republic of Korea but also the Republic of Korea's independent admission to the ILO which it claims would be detrimental to possible future reunification.

Though Korea is not a member of the ILO, the government has promoted technical cooperation with the organization including vocational training projects, since 1962. Korea has expanded its diplomatic activities in labor fields and the Korean delegation to the UN participated in the ILO Conference until 1981. Thereafter, the delegation has been invited as an official observer to the annual and regional conferences by the governing body of the ILO.

Minister on Labor Relations

SK100307 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES (LABOR DAY SUPPLEMENT) in English 10 Mar p 1

[by staff reporter Son Chae-hun]

[Text] "Heated labor disputes are feared to rekindle this year in the course of labor-management negotiations over wage hike as the positions of both sides differ greatly," said Labor Minister Choe Myong-hun.

Rough sailing is expected in the negotiations due to the sharp discrepancy between the Federation of Korea Trade Unions' Association (FKTUA) and the Korea Employers Federation (KEF), he said.

Choe revealed that in a recent dialogue session, the FKTUA forwarded 29.3 percent as the proper level of wage hike this year while the KEF suggested 7.5 to 8.5 percent as the optimum level.

In an interview with THE KOREA TIMES, the newly appointed labor minister also forecast trouble over the signing of a collective agreement by the new labor unions formed in the wake of sweeping labor unrest last summer.

Due to the lack of understanding and experiences, substantial time and efforts will be needed to establish a mature labor-management relationship, he went on to say.

Forecasting a little tense labor-management relations in the first half of this year, Choe said tripartite efforts among the labor, management and the government would be necessary to prevent or minimize expected labor disputes.

On the minimum wage system first introduced this year, he said "I don't think it is sufficient enough to meet the expectation of laborers as it is the first year of introduction."

The amount of monthly minimum wage was set at 111,000 won for laborers in the relatively low wage bracket and at 117,000 won for those in the high wage bracket.

However, the minister said, the actual level of monthly income for the laborers is about 40 to 50 percent in excess of the minimum wage because the minimum wage level was calculated based on eight-hour workdays.

Choe further pledged that he would make every possible effort to raise the level of minimum wage step by step in the years ahead.

Asked about the possible effect the newly revised labor-related laws would have on future labor-management relations, he said "A lot more new labor unions are prospected to be introduced and their activities would become more versatile."

The labor activities of the unions in the same line of industries will greatly be vitalized and the form of labor unions are expected to be diversified depending on the kinds of industries and occupations by virtue of revised laws, he said.

The chances of settling labor dispute through arbitration grew high as the labor committee was elevated to an exclusive organization charged with the work of arbitration, Choe said.

The revised labor-related laws will contribute greatly to advancing the labor-management relationship into a mature form as the laws emphasize autonomous decision of both sides, the new minister expected.

He further opined that the labor-management affairs should be resolved in a peaceful manner through dialogue and compromise under any situation.

The labor and management are asked to keep in mind the fact that they are on the same boat, he emphatically said.

They are required to exert all available efforts and restraints to find a solution through legitimate arbitration procedures even when labor-management negotiations hit a snag, Choe said.

Even in the case when there is no other choice but to resort to strikes laborers are advised to behave within the legal framework without going to extreme form of activities, he said.

Violent activities in the labor disputes, taking ill-effect on social stability and livelihood of general public, must be avoided for sound development of labor-management relationship, he argued.

Asked about the most desirable form of labor-management relation befitting to Korean reality, the minister said "It is getting difficult to emphasize our traditional view of value and culture in the labor-management relations."

Accordingly, he said, the basic spirit and practice of labor-management affairs, commonly accepted in other industrialized nations, must be accommodated in our business sectors.

A system and practice that would enable labor and management to hold negotiations on an equal footing have to be sought, Choe who is also a lawmakers of the ruling Democratic Justice Party said.

He further said his ministry would exert best possible efforts this year to play the role of fair mediator effectively in the labor-management disputes.

The ministry has already launched extensive education campaign on labor-management affairs last month to help laborers and managers of business concerns establish the right view of the labor and management relationship, he revealed.

The education program, also aimed at nurturing the capability of labor-management negotiations, will continue throughout the year in close cooperation with labor organizations and private education institutes, he continued.

Daily Recalls Campaign Pledges to Miners
SK100051 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Mar 88 p 8

[Editorial: "Remedy for Coal Mining"]

[Text] A large number of coal miners in the nation's eastern districts are reportedly facing mass dismissal due to the worsening business prospects of the coal mining industry.

For the past several years, the coal mine industry has been suffering a business slump, and mining firms are now being forced to drastically curtail employee numbers. According, more than 15,000 coal miners may have to seek new jobs, forced to leave the coal mine village before long.

Many coal mining firms are faced with operational difficulties because of scant coal resources, coupled with the recent trend to gradual falls in oil and gas prices.

So as to cope with the gloomy situation, minor coal mining firms are unavoidably closing down their businesses or seeking mergers with larger ones. Regardless of

their scale, mining firms are now all required to drastically rationalize business operations according to a formula that allows them to maintain due productivity with reasonable expenditure.

As important, however, most understandably, is the need to maintain employment, even readjusting working hours for coal miners, if necessary. Not to elaborate, the best form of social welfare for coal miners is to retain as many of them as possible at mines even in the face of the adverse business performances.

To this end, the related administrative authorities are called upon to provide taxation privileges for coal mining firms, along with bank loans, so that they can survive the ongoing business difficulties.

Herewith, we are reminded of the "rosy promises" made by the candidates during the presidential election only late last year. As we vividly recall, the presidential hopefuls were talking about pledges to "double" incomes of coal miners.

Responsible economic planners are urged to do their utmost to solve the unemployment problems of coal miners before it is too late.

Ministry Details Relief Funds for Oil Spill
SK100053 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
10 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] The Health-Social Affairs Ministry said yesterday that it had allocated 200 million won in relief funds to help 18,800 fishing village residents who have suffered severe property damage following an oil-leakage accident.

Until damage is redeemed by the shipping company operating the oil tanker, which sank off Yongil bay, Kyongsangpukdo on Feb. 24, the relief fund will be used to give fishermen employment on a temporary basis.

Students Stage Sit-in for Council Recognition
SK100247 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
10 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] About 150 graduate students of Korea University continued a sit-in in a school library for the second straight day yesterday, demanding the university recognize the student council of the graduate school as a legal organization and improve working conditions for teaching assistants.

Scores of teaching assistants walked off their jobs yesterday after the school rejected their demands.

Burma

Insurgents Continue February Surrendering

BK081420 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] Members of various insurgent organizations who realized their wrongdoing have surrendered with assorted weapons and ammunition at various military camps. The following surrenders took place between 17 and 29 February 1988:

Northeast Military Command: Privates Ba Leinda and Aik Sai of the insurgent BCP's [Burma Communist Party] 6th Company under the 4046th Battalion surrendered with two M-22 automatic rifles and one M-20 pistol at Nam I an army camp. Private Gin Saw of the Mong Li sub-township gave himself up with one M-21 automatic rifle at Mu-se Garrison. Private Phu Kin No of the 3033d Battalion's Li Shaw village unit surrendered with an M-22 and an M-21 automatic rifle at Mong Paw Army Camp.

Private Kan Zay of the insurgent KIA's [Kachin Independence Army] 4th Brigade surrendered with one carbine at Man Hku army camp.

Southeast Military Command: Private Soe Pyne of the BCP's Mergui District Unit surrendered at Nyaungbinkwin army camp.

Private Aye Lwin of the insurgent KNU's [Karen National Union] 2d Battalion gave himself up at Shwegun Garrison.

Private Maung Shein of the Mon insurgent group surrendered at Mudon Garrison.

Eastern Military Command: Noncommissioned Officer Tata, alias Kaung Say, of the insurgent SSA's [Shan State Army] 7th Brigade gave himself up at Keng Hkam.

Private Sai Hkam of the insurgent SURA's [Shan United Revolutionary Army] 705th Battalion surrendered with a carbine at Wan Yin army camp.

Private Maung Tun of the insurgent Red Pa-o group gave himself up with an M-21 automatic rifle at Hti De army camp.

Private Soe U of the Karenni Insurgent Group's 3d Column surrendered at Pasawng army camp.

Northern Military Command: Privaye Bahadur of the insurgent KIA's 253d Battalion and militiaman Tan Bawk San of (Hpalayan) village surrendered with one (L79-1A) small arm [as heard] at Kandawyaung. Privates Khaung Taung, Ya Buja, Win Myint, Aung Pe, and Htoo Shan gave themselves up with one M-21, two M-22, and one M-14 automatic rifle at Shwenyaungbin army camp.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Opposition Vice Chairman Re-Arrested

BK091558 Hong Kong AFP in English 1448 GMT
9 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, March 9 (AFP)—An opposition Democratic Action Party (DAP) leader was re-arrested Wednesday hours after his release from detention under Malaysia's Internal Security Act (ISA), a party spokesman said.

Madhavan Nair, a DAP state assemblyman, said Karpal Singh was re-arrested in Nibong Tebal town in northern Penang State hours after a High Court judge had ordered his release in the neighbouring state of Perak.

Mr. Karpal was on his way home from Perak's Ipoh town, where High Court Justice Peh Swee Chin had ordered his release, when police detained him under the ISA, Mr. Nair said.

DAP Acting Secretary-General Lee Lam Thye had earlier urged the home minister and police "to respect the rule of law and not make any attempt to re-arrest him." Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed is also home minister.

Briefs

Joint Air Exercise Begins

The seventh "Air ThaMal" exercise, a joint exercise between Malaysian and Thai Air Forces, was launched at the Royal Malaysian Air Force, RMAF, base in Butterworth today. Present at the launching ceremony were General Tan Sri Hashim Mohamed Ali, Malaysian chief of defense forces; General Chawalit Yongchaiyut, Royal Thai Armed Forces supreme commander; and the "Air ThaMal" training director. The exercise is concentrated along the Malaysia-Thai border and will end on 18 March in Hat Yai. [Summary] [Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 9 Mar 88 BK]

Cambodia

Spokesman Criticizes PRC Acts Against SRV

BK100534 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Statement issued by Foreign Ministry spokesman in Phnom Penh on 9 March—read by announcer]

[Text] Lately, public opinion has clearly noted provocative activities by the Chinese authorities against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the SRV as four Chinese warships attacked Vietnamese cargo ships, which were conducting their usual mission in the area around Truong Sa [Spratlys] Islands. This is part of a

traditional, aggressive, and expansionist maneuver and a premeditated implementation of China's expansionist policy in the Eastern Sea and toward Southeast Asia.

The provocative and hostile activities of the Chinese authorities against the SRV and the incessant violation of Vietnam's sovereignty and territorial integrity, such as the prospecting of marine resources, the conducting of a military exercise, the delimitation of the maritime border, and the aggression and violation along the Vietnamese northern border, have further clearly shown that the expansionist and hegemonist ambitions of greater China, in the past as in the present, have not diminished or changed at all. This is contrary to the current tendency of peaceful coexistence with friendship, good-neighborly relations, and cooperation, which is developing in the region and in the world. The actions are seriously threatening the security of countries in the Eastern Sea and cause further instability in the region.

The PRK vehemently denounces the hostile, premeditated, and arrogant policy, which is in flagrant violation of the SRV's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity and demands that the Chinese authorities immediately stop their unfriendly and expansionist activities. The Cambodian Government and people affirm their solidarity and firm support for the just and heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people to defend their independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. The Vietnamese people have always expressed their goodwill and have proposed good-neighborly relations with China. The Chinese authorities should be responsible for the tense consequences in the region caused by their unfriendly activities.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 9 March 1988

Hun Sen Receives Nicaraguan Ambassador
*BK100632 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Comrade Hun Sen, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and chairman of the PRK Council of Ministers, received a courtesy call from Comrade Olga Aviles Lopez, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Nicaragua in Cambodia, at the office of the Council of Ministers on the morning of 9 March.

On this occasion, Comrade Hun Sen pointed out the national reconciliation policy of the Cambodian revolution, which is currently fully supported and assisted by the entire Cambodian people and by peace- and justice-loving people the world over.

In reply, Comrade Olga Aviles Lopez praised the all-round progress of the Cambodian revolution in the past more than 9 years under the correct and clear-sighted leadership of the KPRP. The comrade also firmly supported the national reconciliation policy and the PRK's

goodwill in wanting to resolve the Cambodian problem through negotiations aimed at establishing peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation in the region and in the world.

Soviet Helicopter Shot Down in Siem Reap
*BK100005 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army
of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT
9 Mar 88*

[From the "Daily Report From Various Battlefields" feature]

[Excerpt] Siem Reap battlefield: On 2 March, a Soviet Mi-24 helicopter took off from Siem Reap airfield for Battambang. It was shot down by our National Army at Snuol village of Toek Vil commune in Puok District [Siem Reap Province]. All 10 Vietnamese enemy soldiers inside the helicopter were killed. [passage omitted]

Indonesia

Suharto Reelected President for Fifth Term
*BK100405 Hong Kong AFP in English 0359 GMT
10 Mar 88*

[Text] Jakarta, March 10 (AFP)—Indonesia's highest legislative body Thursday unanimously elected 66-year-old incumbent President Suharto to a fifth consecutive five-year-term of office.

The election by the 1,000-member People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), 60 percent of them appointees, makes Mr. Suharto, a retired army general, one of the longest-serving presidents in the world.

The Assembly, which carried out the election by the traditional Indonesian method of unanimous consensus, witnesses said, was scheduled to swear in Mr. Suharto and his vice president Friday [11 March].

However, by midday Thursday the name of the new vice president was still unknown, and a matter of unprecedented debate.

As the presidential election went ahead in the circular MPR building in central Jakarta, observers noted that many leaders of the MPR's five factions were huddled in informal meetings over the emergence of two controversial vice presidential candidates.

Mr. Suharto, who came to power in the mid-1960's after crushing a communist backed coup attempt and has ruled this country of 170 million, the world's fifth largest, ever since, has stated unequivocally that he does not want to see the two fight it out in a vote.

Jakarta Announces Result

*BK100512 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian
0500 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Retired General Suharto this morning was reelected president of the Republic of Indonesia for the 1988-93 term at a plenary session of the People's Consultative Assembly, which proceeded smoothly and lasted only about 25 minutes. The smooth proceeding of the session, chaired by MPR Speaker Kharis Suhud and attended by 877 MPR members, was attributed to the fact that the retired general had been nominated as the sole presidential candidate by all five MPR factions.

Vice Presidential Candidate Not To Withdraw

*BK080818 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0510 GMT
8 Mar 88*

[Text] Jakarta, March 8 (OANA-ANTARA)—For H.J. Naro, there is no question of withdrawing from his nomination by the United Development Faction [FPP] in the People's Consultative Assembly [MPR] for the vice presidency of the country because the candidacy has become an idea the faction has put forward on many occasions.

There is no way Naro would give up, FPP member Abdi Kusumanegara said during meetings of the different commissions at the MPR building here Monday [7 March].

As to an appeal for a withdrawal made by another member of the faction, Abdi Kusumanegara believes that the idea was grossly improper because the Constitution guarantees the choice of a vice presidential candidate through voting in case there is more than one nominee.

He said it is the MPR, and nobody else, which has the sovereign power.

The FPP appealed to all concerned to respect the sovereign power of the MPR without interference, intimidation or otherwise that has no relevance to the powers of the MPR. With regard to the statement made by the president in his recent meeting with the board members of the 17 August 1945 Foundation that a vice presidential candidate, who is sure not to get a majority, should withdraw, Abdi said he did not know exactly what the head of state had said on the occasion. He said he only knew from what he read in the papers.

Laos

Foreign Ministry Official Arrives in Paris

AU091731 Paris AFP in English 1655 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Paris, March 9 (AFP)—Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat arrived here Wednesday for a four-day visit to brief the French Government on present border talks between Laos and Thailand, an embassy spokesman said.

The border conflict involving a territory of 75 square kilometers (29 square miles) started on December 15 and has claimed the lives of 402 Laotian and 147 Thai soldiers, according to Thai press reports.

A cease-fire took effect on February 19 with both parties withdrawing their troops by three kilometers (two miles).

Vientiane and Bangkok agreed last Friday to settle the conflict by adopting a border line traced in a 1907 treaty between France and what was then Siam.

Mr. Souban is to hand over a letter from Foreign Minister Phoun Sipaseut to his French counterpart Jean-Bernard Raimond in a meeting with the State Secretary in the Foreign Ministry, Didier Bariani, on Friday.

No mention was made of the letter's contents.

Mr. Souban will also visit Belgium, West Germany, Britain, the Netherlands, and Sweden during his European tour.

Feature Notes Support for Troops at Front

*BK091457 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0430 GMT 2 Mar 88*

[Feature: "Coordination Between the Rear and Front Lines Has Become the Strength Defeating the Opposite Side"]

[Text] As uncles and aunts, fathers and mothers, we worry about the health and well-being of everyone. This is what comrades in the rear line said when they presented gifts to the units concerned to pass to the brothers who are fighting against the intrusion and annexation of our territory by the opposite side.

As everyone knows, for nearly 2 months since late 1987, the fertile area consisting of forests and jungled mountains west of Na Banoi Canton in Boten District, Sayaboury Province, was the target of the dirty bombs of the opposite side. Subsequently, the border situation became increasingly tense. With the problem of the three border hamlets not yet completely settled, military clashes erupted in the vicinity of Phou Soi Dao or Phou Mieng mountain, thus adversely affecting the good-neighborly and brotherly relations [between Laos and Thailand]. The new wave of actions by the opposite side involved the use of infantrymen and blatant bombardments of Na Banoi Canton by modern aircraft which heavily damaged the fertility of the mountainous and forested areas. This is an unprecedented act of destroying Lao-Thai relations.

With loyalty to the party and a noble sense of patriotism, the armed forces and people of Boten District have not allowed those hysterical actions to discourage them at all. The armed forces of Boten District heroically counterattacked the invaders and firmly defended the country's territory, inflicting heavy casualties on the opposite side. They have maintained the brave and

heroic tradition of the Lao Armed Forces and people. During the fighting against the opposite side, many comrades and units have demonstrated their outstanding characteristics as genuine revolutionary combatants who are not afraid to sacrifice their lives, flesh, and blood.

As the bloody fighting continued at the front line, the rear line could not stand idly by. Youths in offices, organizations, and state agencies enthusiastically volunteered to serve the nation. Some offices and agencies sent men and materials to serve the front line. From 25 December to 26 February 1988, gifts worth nearly 9 million kip were collected. This is evidence that the front and rear lines always stand shoulder to shoulder. Those gifts represent the sincere feelings of those who are fathers, mothers, uncles, and aunts in the rear line who also sent letters expressing their best wishes and inquiring about the health and well-being of the comrades in the front line. Every effort was exerted to defeat the robbers and drive away the dark clouds from our beautiful land. Good luck, comrades.

PASASON Condemns NATO 'Attitude'

*BK091045 Vientiane KPL in English 0905 GMT
9 Mar 88*

[Text] Vientiane, March 9 (KPL)—A commentary of PASASON today condemns the bellicose attitude exhibited at the recent NATO summit in Brussels in which there were attempts to justify the West's intention to start the arms race.

The leading Lao paper points out in this connection that the West's claim that the Soviet Union is more superior militarily is nothing new and did not stop even after the signing of the INF Treaty. Such claim, the commentary says, is groundless and not compatible with the state of reality. And it is aimed at giving a green light to the arms race. It is to serve the global military strategy of NATO members, among them Britain and the USA. Thus, there is no change in NATO's political line.

The paper, in this regard, says that NATO wants to maintain the policy of confrontation between the East and West which runs counter to the aspiration of the entire people of Europe and the world over. It would be better, the paper concludes, to channel fantastic amounts of spending to better social spheres of life, instead of in military building.

Editorial on Use of Economic Sectors

*BK100459 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 1 Mar 88*

[PASASON 1 March editorial: "Make Proper Use of the Transitory Period's Economic Sectors"]

[Text] Respected listeners, at present, several economic sectors still exist in our country, for example the natural and seminatural economy which commands the largest

proportion of our economy and remains the most backward one of our economic sectors, the small commodity economy, the private capitalist economy, the state capitalist economy in which the state and private interests are partners, and the socialist economy which includes state enterprises and cooperatives.

All these are different types of economic sectors existing objectively in the transitory period.

That is why in developing production forces and building the economic structure for our agricultural and forestry production, we have to utilize these economic sectors in a proportional ratio both in a sense of economic relations and legal aspects. In recent years, inappropriate measures were applied in dealing with nonsocialist economic sectors. There remain numerous rampant acts of running counter to the objective economic law. All this has attributed to a delay in the growth of the nonsocialist economic sectors despite the fact that they still remain essentially useful. As a result, we seem to have become incapacitated in promoting production and developing production forces at a rapid pace. Hasty thinking and an unchanged attitude of wanting to maintain only the socialist economic sectors within a short period of time run against the law stipulating that production relations must be in harmony with the level and nature of development of production forces.

In our country where the natural and seminatural economy practiced by farmers still remains the largest proportion of the national economy and their technical levels depend primarily on nature, it is extremely difficult to encourage them to engage in any production forms whose levels are higher than those of their own.

The reality in recent years shows that it is necessary to encourage farmers to work and to raise the level of their skills so that they will become more capable of utilizing their land in production in a more efficient manner, to develop the small commodity economy on the basis of the development of the farmers' family economy by gradually advancing from private production to the cooperative economy from a lower up to a higher form, and to utilize the private capitalist economy, including that of trading capitalists, under the form of partnership by beginning from the requirements for developing production forces. In dealing with the trading capitalists, we must still adhere to the import-export partnership form by relying on capital sources of a particular businessman or by combining capital of many businessmen with that of the state. We must utilize the form of trading cooperation or collective trading association, the form of partnership between the state and private capitalists, the form of utilizing private capitalists to work as contractors for the state, for example in exploiting timber for the state or acting as its agents in selling industrial goods or purchasing farm and forest products for the state. Another form of state capitalism which should be

adopted is for the state to allow private individuals to rent production means in the form of natural resources such as unexploited land, forests, and mineral deposits.

In dealing with the economy of small capitalists, we must utilize the form of cooperation among small industrial and handicraft cooperatives with a view to combining small commodity producers in small industry and handicrafts areas together and to creating trading relations with the state aimed at developing production of industrial goods to augment the industrial strength of the state in meeting the requirements of society for essential goods and for export and to increase the quantity of goods in industrial storage for exchanging with products of farmers.

To meet immediate requirements and to liberate our national economy from the status of being a natural economy, leading cadres at all levels must firmly grasp and appreciate the contents and spirit of the fifth resolution adopted by the fourth party Central Committee in utilizing the economic sectors existing during the transitory period. We must do away with our beliefs in the private economy of farmers and handicraft workers and the economy of private capitalists. We must understand that the existence of the private economic sectors and the private capitalists under our new regime is different from their status under the old regime because their vested interests are now associated with, and depend on, those of society.

Briefs

Vatican Gives Medical Aid

His Eminence Alberto Tricarice, the Vatican ambassador in Bangkok and papal representative, on March 7 handed over a consignment of aid to Prof. Vannalet Latsapho, deputy minister of public health of Laos. The aid worth over DM 141,000 consisting of medical equipment for various services of the central provincial hospital of Khammoune was given to Laos by the Misereor International Organization and a German Catholic organization named Zentral Strelle. [Excerpt] *[Vientiane KPL in English 0902 GMT 9 Mar 88 BK]*

Philippines

Negotiating Position on U.S. Bases Discussed
HK101001 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
10 Mar 88 p 8

[By Ma. Cecilia S. Bautista]

[Text] Unless government comes up with a comprehensive base conversion program in time, it will be bargaining from a weak position when the review of the agreement commences on the last week of the month.

Professor Roland G. Simbulan, a political analyst from the State University and member of the Board of the Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition, said the country holds a bargaining ace because the U.S. needs the Philippine bases for the projected expansion of its military operations in the Middle East.

However, government's option for non-renewal of the agreement is diminishing because of its failure to come up with concrete proposals for alternative uses for the bases. This, he said, is the only way the country can negotiate from a position of strength.

"Abrogation, as an option of government, has lost its credibility. The Americans will be laughing at us. They'll just be calling our bluff," Prof Simbulan said.

Military Plight [subhead]

Still another factor working against government is the plight of the military.

Prof Simbulan observed, "The military's resources are concentrated on the Philippine Constabulary and the Army, both of which are involved in counter-insurgency operations. Purely internal defense. The Navy and Air Force, on the other hand, have been neglected. They are just like support services for the Army."

"Because of this, the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] at present, does not have the capability for external defense. And the Americans want us to depend entirely on them for this. Our options will definitely be limited because of this weakness," he explained.

Prof Simbulan also noted that recent political developments serve to highlight what appears to be government's vulnerable position.

Desperation [subhead]

"There is this seeming desperation to get back the wealth of (deposed President Ferdinand) Marcos in exchange for his return. There is this seeming desperation to find lost treasures.

"There is also this seeming desperation to stop the Moro National Liberation Front from being admitted into the Organization of Islamic Conference, to the extent of proposing that the Philippines should also seek admission. The timing is not right for these signals," he said.

Prof Simbulan stressed that government must be very determined to get the best terms possible at the negotiating table if it would opt for the retention of the bases.

He said: "Nirerespeto lang nila ang mga bansa na matigtas ang ulo (They [the U.S.] only respect belligerent nations). If they push us too far, we might switch to the other side, and they will be too careful for that."

Australian Minister Urges Human Rights

*HK090339 Hong Kong AFP in English 0242 GMT
9 Mar 88*

[Text] Manila, March 9 (AFP)—Visiting Australian Justice Minister Senator Michael Tate Wednesday urged the Philippine Government to uphold human rights.

He issued the call in a speech to Philippine police trainees amid charges from foreign groups, including Australian activists, of mounting human rights abuses by security forces after two years under President Corazon Aquino.

Mr Tate did not mention any alleged abuses in a prepared speech released to the foreign press, stressing only that there were specific guarantees of civil and political rights under the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

"The drafters of the 1987 Constitution were very mindful of the need to entrench in the basic law of the Philippines the protection of human rights," he said in a speech delivered at a police training camp in Laguna, south of Manila.

But he said laws "must be complemented with a commitment by the executive and legislative branches of government scrupulously to implement its provisions coupled with a faith in that commitment by the community as a whole."

He also said that without effective law enforcement, Filipinos will "lose faith in the system and either resort to self-help or turn to revolutionary justice," referring to the so-called kangaroo courts of communist guerillas.

Mr Tate, who arrived here last weekend to sign a bilateral criminal extradition treaty, Australia's first with any Asian nation, pledged his government's assistance in helping Manila develop effective law enforcement.

There was no immediate comment from the Aquino government, which dismisses charges that it condones abuses against civilians and suspected dissidents by the Armed Forces, police and anti-communist vigilante groups.

Manila also says its foreign critics, mostly left-wing political groups from the West, are silent on atrocities by the communist New People's Army.

Signs Extradition Treaty

*HK071111 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1000 GMT 7 Mar 88*

[Text] The Philippines and Australia today signed an extradition treaty, with Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordoñez and Justice Minister Michael Tate signing for their

respective governments. The signing ceremony was held at the Philippine International Convention Center. Here is an additional report from Sel Baesa:

[Begin recording] Tate was accompanied by top Australian Embassy officials to Malacanang. In his meeting with President Aquino, Tate reiterated the importance of the treaty to the Australian Government, saying that it would be the first of many more such treaties to come. According to Tate, the treaty will fulfill the common desire of both the Philippines and Australia to combat crime, notably the trafficking of illegal drugs. The treaty provides for extradition of violators of laws in both countries. [end recording]

Aquino To Discuss Trade During PRC Visit

*HK100911 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0800 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] President Corazon Aquino today expressed the hope that her scheduled visit to China on 12 April will lead to an improved balance of trade between the two countries. The president made these remarks during an interview with newsmen at Malacanang. She will make a 2-day visit to China, and then proceed to Hong Kong before returning to Manila.

[Begin Aquino recording in English] Since China is one of our neighbors, it is only fitting that I go there and, as we have said, establish better relations with our neighbor. A lot of matters will be taken up. I am taking with me the cabinet members whose departments will have a direct involvement in our relations with China. So, among them will be the secretary of trade and industry, the secretary of education, and then we will have the secretary of agriculture, the secretary of natural resources. I am also inviting one senator and one congressman to join us in the visit. [end recording]

Orders Socialist Ties Review

*HK100951 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 10 Mar 88 p 3*

[By GLOBE staff writer Alvin C. Capino]

[Text] President Aquino ordered yesterday the expansion of diplomatic, political, and socio-economic relations with socialist countries during the National Economic Development Authority [NEDA] board meeting where some 15 serious "policy gaps" were discussed.

This was related by Economic Planning Secretary Solita Monsod in a press briefing.

She said Mrs Aquino ordered departments and agencies to institute "definite action" to close the gap between policy statements and policy action in various sectors, including agriculture, industry, monetary policy, labor, and foreign relations.

✓ The NEDA secretariat also reported to the board chaired by Mrs Aquino and composed of senior Cabinet officials that as of December 31, 1987, \$1.3 billion remain unused by "critically delayed" foreign assisted projects.

Monsod reported that there are a total of 287 ongoing foreign assisted projects, 38 of which have availment rates below 65 percent. She said that an availment rate is the amount actually spent compared with the amount scheduled to be spent.

On improved bilateral relations with socialist countries, Monsod said it was noted during the meeting that there is a "policy gap" between the pronouncements on the need to expand relations "with all nations regardless of ideological belief and political orientation" and actual practice.

She said there are agreements with socialist countries which are not being implemented because of objections from military authorities on the grounds of national security.

The presidential directive on improved relations with socialist countries come just before the review of the U.S. military bases agreement and the scheduled visits of Mrs Aquino to the People's Republic of China and the USSR.

Other "policy gaps" ordered closed by President Aquino were:

- Remove the restriction on hectareage planted to bananas in the light of the policy to remove agricultural production disincentives;
- Liberalize the importation of fertilizer instead of protecting a local monopoly at the disadvantage of farmers;
- Streamline agencies involved in forest management and development;
- Give priority to economic development before foreign debt servicing;
- Give priority to the population control program;
- Set-up mechanism for coordinating livelihood programs;
- Accelerate government decentralization;
- Create one regulatory body for the power sector.

May Visit Middle East

HK091423 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television
Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] President Cory Aquino is open to the idea of a state visit to the Middle East in order to improve Philippine relations with Muslim countries. According

to the president, she has received recommendations to visit the Middle East but this could only take place in 1989, because her overseas trips for the year have already been scheduled and planned.

[Begin recording in English] [Aquino] Not this year, okay. It has been recommended to me, but we will have to discuss it further.

[Reporter] [passage indistinct]

[Aquino] I have not. I am just going to...first to China and then to Switzerland and Italy. [end recording]

The president is slated to visit China in mid-April, and she has also been invited to attend the International Labor Organization Conference in Geneva before proceeding to the Vatican at the invitation of Pope John Paul II.

Discusses MNLF, Other Issues

HK100902 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Quotation marks denote passages in English]

[Excerpts] President Aquino has strongly said that there is no truth to the accusation that the government is planning to conduct a genocidal campaign against Filipino Muslims in Mindanao. She made this comment in reply to a statement yesterday by an MNLF spokesman that the MNLF has obtained some evidence and documents from the Office of the President regarding a plan to liquidate the MNLF in Mindanao. According to the president, these reports are erroneous.

[Begin Aquino recording] "I have always said I am the president of all Filipinos. And in fact, I have said this to the Muslims, to the people from the Cordillera, to the military as well as to civilians, to religious, and all that. And I am a human being and I respect human life. So, definitely I will go against any plan such as this, and I categorically deny that such a plan was hatched here in Malacanang. Maybe it was hatched in Malacanang long before my time, I do not know. But as far as I am concerned, from the time I assumed office as president, I have not even... [changes thought] listen, if ever anybody ever suggested that, that person would go out of my government." [end recording]

Here are some more details of this morning's news conference in Malacanang from Gabby Salcedo:

[Begin recording] President Corazon Aquino assured that if the ongoing treasure hunt in the country is successful, the first to benefit will be the people. The president made this announcement while saying that the treasure hunt in Fort Santiago is an act of desecration. [as heard] She said that the treasure could be used for the

government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program [CARP], or perhaps for another alternative, which is to pay off the country's foreign debts. Here is the president: [end recording]

[Aquino recording indistinct]

On other issues, the president also stressed that the national interest should take priority. She made this comment in connection with the possible return of former President Marcos. She said that she continues to maintain her stand in spite of reports of Mr Marcos' bad health. President Aquino also reacted to reports that the Ilocanos will not be able to forgive her if Mr Marcos dies without having been able to return to the country. Here is the president:

[Begin Aquino recording] [passage indistinct] I did not realize that he would die on 21 August. None of us present here know when we are going to die, "and I definitely would not want to think or consider or even hint on when I think a person will die, because all of us here really have an appointed date, and nobody knows when it will be. I will still go back to my original answer that it will all depend on whether it is to the interest of this country that Marcos be allowed to return or not." [end recording] [passage omitted]

The president also criticized the report by the London-based Amnesty International that since mid-1987, human rights violations have become more serious, and all this because of the country's counterinsurgency campaign. She asked Amnesty International to consult with the Human Rights Commission, the Task Force detainees, and other concerned groups, before they issue reports on alleged human rights violations.

New Armed Group To Fight for Muslim Autonomy
HK090817 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 9 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] An armed group has been set up in Metro Manila to fight for the autonomy of Muslim Mindanao from the country, while two civilian volunteer organizations surfaced recently in Southwestern Mindanao to resist the separatist Moro National Liberation Front.

But while the two volunteer groups, Mindanao Solidarity Movements (MSM), vowed to contain the Muslim secessionist threat in their respective areas, the newly established Moro Revolutionary Youth League (MRYL) threatened to bring the fight to the national capital region in case war breaks out anew between government forces and Muslim rebels.

In a press conference held in a suburban town, the MRYL claimed that it has organized an armed group to undertake soon minor and selective military operations in Metro Manila.

Nassaer Bagulada, MRYL secretary general, said that among the probable military targets are government officials who "oppress the Muslim people and also Moro traitors."

Muslim youth leaders who attended the press conference were Hussein Guiling, the group's military officer; Bagulada, who is also a member of the MNLF; Mohammad Umaral, vice chairman and member of the MNLF Reformist Group; and Abdul Nur Qudarat, chairman of the group and member of the splinter Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Guiling is a former active member of the Kabataang Makabayan [Nationalist Youth], a leftist group affiliated with the National Democratic Front [NDF].

The group's spokesman said that although it is not affiliated with the Marxist-led National Democratic Front, it adheres to certain positions of the NDF, like its anti-U.S. and anti-elite stand.

The group's spokesman said that although it is not affiliated with the Marxist-led National Democratic Front, it adheres to certain positions of the NDF, like its anti-U.S. and anti-elite stand.

The group said that its present strength is still in the "early stages" and would have to concentrate on forging "revolutionary alliances" with other Muslim groups.

Bagulada said that it will give emphasis or concentrate on the youth and student sector, particularly in Manila universities.

In a statement read by Bagulada, the group said that it unites with other groups in aspiring for "genuine Muslim autonomy."

But Bagulada said that his group does not support the call for secession. "Let there be peaceful coexistence between Manila and the Muslim people should first be granted," Bagulada said.

The spokesman added that the group, some of whose members have leftist backgrounds, said that it shall endeavor to propagate Islam which he described as a "liberating force."

The group also supported the move of the MNLF to seek recognition from the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC].

Bagulada said that if the MNLF is able to acquire belligerency status, not to mention OIC regular membership, "It will already be a big leap in advancing the cause of the Muslim people."

Misuari on Islamic Conference Membership Bid

*HK100923 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] From General Santos City, Tony Cardona of the DXCP radio station has reported that the MNLF has denied reports that it is planning an armed rally to mark the MNLF's founding anniversary on 18 March.

[Begin Cardona recording] Muslim leaders in General Santos City and North Cotabato today denied that members of the Moro National Liberation Front will march into the city bearing arms to celebrate the MNLF's 16th anniversary.

At a meeting 2 days ago, Muslim leaders Lasin Sama and Al Hassan announced that reports to this effect were untrue. Instead, Sama and Hassan said that there will be an all-day sectoral prayer rally that day that will be attended by Muslims and Christians.

The Moro National Liberation Front commanders here—Commander Utong Salip, Commander Bestu, and Commander Tigre—also have promised to abide by their agreement with top military officers headed by Colonel Orlando Soriano of the 16th Brigade and Colonel Dominador de Jesus, PC provincial commander, to maintain peace and order in Northern Cotabato.

From DXCB, this is Tony Cardona reporting. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Moro National Liberation Front Chairman Nur Misuari has promised not to block the Philippines' bid for membership with the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] so long as it only represents Luzon and the Visayas Islands.

According to Misuari, he will be forced to convince the OIC member-states to reject the Philippines' application if Mindanao is included in the application.

From the newsroom, here is Bong Orlina:

[Begin recording] The MNLF will not block Manila's bid for membership with the OIC if it only represents the Luzon and the Visayan regions. This was emphatically announced by Misuari in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

According to Misuari, the Bangsa Moro [Moro Homeland], or Mindanao, allegedly is recognized by the OIC as a separate political state, and thus there could be legal implications if representation of the region is also claimed by the Philippines. Misuari has stated that the MNLF will fully support Manila's bid for membership if the Philippines agrees to his proposal. Otherwise, the MNLF will be forced to urge other Muslim countries to block the Philippines' bid for OIC membership. [end recording]

Two Top Pampanga NPA Rebels Killed

*HK100945 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0900 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Two top officials of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] in Pampanga were killed at noon yesterday in an intense battle between government troops and the NPA. The military identified the two slain rebels as Ka [Comrade] Arnani and Ka Abner, who is the defense chief of the province. Their real names will remain unknown to the authorities until their relatives claim the bodies.

Meanwhile, the Bacolod police today reported that a top CPP-NPA official surrendered last Tuesday [8 March]. This was before the capture of Nemesio Demafilis, NPA commander in Negros.

Ramos Urges Military, Defense Cooperation

*HK100915 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 10 Mar 88*

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos today announced that the times call for greater cooperation between the members of the Department of National Defense [DND] and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Ramos made this statement before the members and officials of the Association of Career Employees of National Defense during its induction ceremonies. He admitted that the government is facing difficulties in solving several serious problems. Here are the details from Jonathan Cristobal:

[Begin recording] In these critical times, wherein the survival of the Republic continues to be threatened, the Defense Department and the Armed Forces are the most enduring and best-tested stabilizing factors, Ramos said. The defense secretary also explained that since the Defense Department is playing an important role in our society, all the members of the DND should be committed to carrying out their responsibilities. Secretary Ramos pledged that the needs of the department and its personnel will be given first-hand attention, and that they can expect his help at all times. [end recording]

[Begin Ramos recording in English] Everyone's positive participation and contribution is needed now more than ever before. In previous years, perhaps we could afford to be complacent, maybe we could even afford to make some errors. But during these very critical times, when the survival of the Republic continues to be threatened from many sides, it is your department and the Armed Forces that are the most enduring and the best-tested stabilizing forces that exist in society. [end recording]

Rightist Military Threat Said Resolved

*HK091411 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television
Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 9 Mar 88*

[Text] The military threat from rightist elements in the security forces of the National Capital Region [NCR] and in other areas of the country has already been

resolved. This statement was issued by NCR Defense Command chief Brigadier General Rodolfo Biazon. He said the issues the rightists used in their attempt to grab power have already been resolved by the government, and thus they can no longer assert themselves.

Regarding the communists, although they do not yet pose a military threat, their political threat is evident.

[Begin Biazon recording in English] What I mean by a political threat is that they continuously try to erode the faith of our people in the political system, trying continuously to cause or force the collapse of our economy by many means. [end recording]

De Villa's Appointment Confirmation Delayed
HK080337 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Congress has failed anew to confirm the appointment by President Aquino of a retiring general to head the 250,000-strong Armed Forces. Under the Constitution, any presidential appointment from the Cabinet down to bureau level has to be confirmed by Congress. Congress' failure to confirm the appointment stems from legal wrangling over whether the recent promotion of General Renato de Villa to a four-star general automatically makes him the country's military chief. Senator Edgardo Angara, who is the chairman of the Committee on National Defense of the Commission on Appointments, said De Villa does not yet have the appointment papers from President Aquino for the post of military chief. But he said President Aquino yesterday [7 March] agreed to release De Villa's papers as the basis for the Senate to confirm him. General De Villa succeeds retired General Fidel Ramos who was earlier appointed by President Aquino and confirmed by Congress as the nation's defense secretary.

Laurel Backs New 'Non-Political' Movement
HK100223 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Vice President Salvador Laurel has expressed full support for the formation of the multi-sectoral, nonpolitical, and nonpartisan National Movement for Economic Reconstruction and Survival [Nation Movers] that would take a stand on every crucial issue confronting the nation. In a speech at the Tanauan municipal cemetery in Batangas marking the 97th birth anniversary of his father, the late President Jose P. Laurel, Laurel said the Nation Movers would advocate a federalized form of government to suit the culturally diverse nature of the country. Its formation was expounded by businessman Enrique Zobel at a Makati Rotary Club meeting at the Peninsula Hotel yesterday [9 March].

The vice president observed that the centralization of governmental powers, as envisioned by the movement, would be the key to attaining peace in the country, particularly in Muslim Mindanao. Laurel pointed out

that [word indistinct] tribes which have their specific needs and problems should be granted autonomy so that their local officials would be able to deliver what is best for the people in their specific areas.

Enrile Outlines Agenda for Economic Recovery
HK101237 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 10 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] Americans have to take the risks as well as the opportunities in maintaining their political and economic interests in the country, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile said yesterday.

Speaking before the American Chamber of Commerce, the opposition stalwart chided the American businessmen for their neglect of the Philippine economy.

"What aggravates the economic failure of the Philippines, relative to the success stories in our region, is the fact that they wrought their economic miracles with the help of American technology and capital and especially the impetus of the American market. If there is a country in Asia with a real moral claim on American support for its industrialization, it should be the Philippines.

"The tragic fact is that we have been left out. In your private moments, I would not be surprised if you sometimes feel a certain pang of guilt in seeing your adopted country lagging so far behind," he said.

Infusions [subhead]

American businessmen, he said, should make major infusions of capital and technology into the Philippines, to help it claim the status of a newly-industrialized country by the turn of the century.

If the country does not make the grade, he said, Americans will be as much to blame.

At the same gathering, Sen Enrile outlined a 5-point policy agenda for Government to attain economic recovery.

At the top of the list was reconciliation. He stressed that the President should set an example by transcending past conflicts, beginning with the Armed Forces, which is "driven by the politics of vendetta and endless reprisal."

The former defense chief noted that the Communists are the ones who profit from the divisions that wrack the military.

He recalled that the insurgents, led by Jose Ma. Sison, recently bragged that the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NDF-NPA "has accumulated the armed strength that makes their position strategically and historically irreversible."

Agenda [subhead]

- ✓ The second point was the need for a clear economic agenda. The lone oppositionist voice in the Upper House remarked that while the country was given a political miracle in EDSA, [Epifanio de Los Santos Avenue] the Government must work out the much-needed economic miracle through a single national vision.

Sen. Enrile also lamented that the Aquino administration has already wasted the opportunity afforded by EDSA to perform such a miracle.

- ✓ Thirdly, he decried the lack of government support given to the private sector.

"Even with the albatross of the debt crisis and the rising protectionism in Western markets, the underlying strengths of the Philippine economy remain in place, waiting to be harnessed to more ambitious economic goals," he assured.

Deregulation [subhead]

What Government should do, he said, is to undertake a massive deregulation to reduce bureaucracy. Also, it should coordinate its efforts "to give the appearance of well-concerted rather than disparate and conflicting policies."

Sen Enrile also pushed for a more liberal Foreign Investments Code, even as he observed that Vietnam's code was "at least twice as liberal" as that of the Philippines.

"What the expected influx of foreign capital, Vietnam should overtake the Philippines in economic development in just a few years," he said.

"The sense of drift and stalemate in economic policy should stop. The government must send strong signals of clear, firm, and stable economic policies that favor, help, and facilitate private enterprise," he underscored.

- ✓ The fourth item on Sen Enrile's priority list was the immediate implementation of the agrarian reform program. He warned, however, that the program must have the accompanying "economic dynamism".

"Agrarian reform can succeed only where small- and medium-scale industries spring up to absorb the outflow of people from the land." Otherwise, he said, it would be merely "a prescription for a worse kind of economic stagnation."

While the land reform policies are still hazy, he pointed out, the agriculture sector is stagnating as a result of a paralysis in decisionmaking.

Waiting [subhead]

"Most agricultural enterprises have halted expansion plans while waiting for an agrarian reform law. Most banks have taken cautionary steps about lending to agriculture, pending the settlement of the issues.

"We have attained agricultural self-sufficiency only after long and painstaking struggle, this is now unravelling because of chronic official indecision. This is not a step forward, but several steps back," he criticized.

- ✓ His fifth proposal was for decentralization, just short of federalization, to dismantle domestic colonialism.

He recommended the drafting of a new code whereby local governments "can share equitably in the proceeds of the development of natural resources within their respective boundaries."

Thailand

Lao Forces Capture, Free 16 Border Villagers

BK100114 Bangkok THE NATION in English
10 Mar 82 p 2

[Text] Sixteen Thai villagers in the northeastern province of Ubon Ratchathani were briefly captured on Monday [7 March] by Laotian troops in the latest incident since the end of the three-month war between Thailand and Laos, a member of Parliament [MP] said.

MP Itsara Somchai (Ratsadon/Ubon Ratchathani) said the villagers were arrested by about 10 Laotian paramilitary personnel around noon while gathering food in a wooded area near Ban Thung Nongbua, Tambon Chong Mek of Phibun Mangsahan district. They were released the same evening.

The captured villagers were from Ban Thung Nongbua and Ban Bunsung of Tambon Chong Mek, and Ban Won Bung of Tambon Kham Khuan Kaeo of Khong Chiam district.

Itsara said the villagers have dug foxholes in preparation for possible clashes between Thai and Lao troops in the area.

"The Laotians told the villagers that Ban Thung Nongbua is inside Lao territory. They asked them to dismantle the four-kilometre barbed-wire fence set up by the Thai military," he said.

"They even threatened to prevent the villagers from planting rice when the rainy season comes by sabotage," he said.

In an interview with the villagers, Itsara said the villagers told him that they were escorted to the Lao side of the border. During detention, they were questioned about the size and the positions of Thai soldiers in the area, he said.

The villagers also reported hearing frequent explosions on the other side of the border. They said the construction of military posts and a border road have been underway on the Lao side.

Last week, the Ubon Ratchathani governor inspected the disputed area and told the villagers that the fence was erected to prevent cattle from the Laotian side from crossing into Thailand.

However, he said the fence, which was set up about one month ago, is not the demarcation line between the two countries. The governor could not be reached for clarification last night.

Itsara said he had proposed that the matter be settled by authorities during the negotiations that have followed the border conflict in which more than 700 soldiers on both sides were killed.

The MP said he has informed the Foreign Ministry about the matter and warned that the dispute, if left unattended to, could swell into yet another armed conflict between the two countries.

Gen Athit Casts Doubt on Lao Border Talks

BK100142 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
10 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] Former army chief Gen Athit Kamlang-ek said on Tuesday he doubted whether the Thai-Lao border dispute could be settled by negotiations.

Talking to some 600 Tho So Po Cho [Thai national defense volunteers] defence volunteers at his residence in Loei, Gen Athit said that Thailand has always been exploited by Laos in negotiations.

Though Thailand and Laos would observe the cease-fire, he said, misunderstandings over the disputed area had to be cleared up or negotiations would never succeed.

Prem Said To Reject Chawalit Resignation

BK100705 Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai
10 Mar 88 p 4

[From the "SIAM RAT Society" column]

[Text] A source has confirmed that Army commander General Chawalit Yongchaiyut has already written a letter asking to resign from military service, probably effective in May. The source's report goes on to say that Prime Minister Gen Prem Tinsulanon rejected the request to resign until October, but not indefinitely. This deeply placed source says the prime minister would not allow the army commander to resign in May because parliament will be in session at that time.

UK Diplomat, Hurt in Hanoi by Grenade, Arrives

BK100102 Bangkok THE NATION in English
10 Mar 88 p 5

[Text] A British Embassy official in Hanoi was injured by a hand grenade believed to have been thrown as an expression of anti-foreign feeling, officials and travellers said yesterday.

The middle-ranking official, Nicholas John Enescott, was injured Monday [7 March] in Hanoi, and was brought to Bangkok for treatment, said Peter Bean, a British Embassy spokesman in Bangkok.

Bean, however, said he did not have immediate access to details of the incident and there has been no report of it on official Vietnamese media.

A traveller who came to Bangkok on the same flight as Enescott said information circulating among embassies in Hanoi indicated an old army grenade was hurled at the British Embassy official as he left a cafe popular among foreigners in Hanoi.

The traveller, who asked not to be further identified, said the brunt of the grenade blast damaged Enescott's car, but some fragments hit him in the leg. The official was treated by a doctor at the Swedish Embassy in Hanoi, she said.

The Swedish doctor removed some grenade fragments, but some splinters remained in the wounds which became infected, leading to the evacuation of the victim to Bangkok, she said.

Officials at Samitthiwet Hospital in Bangkok said Enescott was being X-rayed and treated at the hospital for wounds to the leg and buttocks, but Enescott himself was unavailable for comment.

Incidents of violence against foreigners in northern Vietnam are unusual.

Sources from Hanoi said it was generally believed the attack was not aimed particularly at Enescott or at British officials but at foreigners in general.

One source said the cafe where the grenade was thrown was a popular meeting place between foreign men and Vietnamese women and this might have occasioned the attack.

The source said no arrest has been announced although it was believed that Hanoi police have taken one person into custody.

The number of foreigners in Hanoi has increased recently amid Vietnamese efforts to attract foreign aid and investment.

Briefs

King Receives Envoys

On 7 March, his majesty the king received credentials from Muhammad Magdi Sabri al-Yuriani, Egyptian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Thailand with residence in Bangkok. Later, the king also granted an audience to Thai Ambassador-designate to Switzerland Sombun Sa-ngiambut upon the latter's departure to take up his duties. [Summary]

[Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 7 Mar 88 BK]

Vietnam

More Cadres, Equipment Planned for Spratlys

BK100831 Hanoi VNA in English 0715 GMT
10 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 10—The meteorological station on the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago has for years observed weather conditions in the area and regularly released data for the mainland weather service, thereby effectively contributing to the prevention of storms and the development of the national economy.

The station was built in late 1976 and put into operation on June 1, 1977 under the codename 48920. It has been recognized by the World Meteorological Organization as part of Vietnam's meteorological network.

Tran Van An, head of the General Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, recently convened a meeting of responsible cadres of his department and spoke of the need to help the meteorological station on the Truong Sa Archipelago to increase the efficiency of its work, especially in the coming rainy season. As a practical step, he said, preparations are under way to supply more technical equipment and cadres to the station.

New Head of USSR Amity Society Appointed

BK100351 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] The Presidium of the Vietnam-USSR Friendship Association [VUFA] Central Committee held an enlarged conference in Hanoi on 9 March to review the association's work last year and to make decisions on its orientation and tasks for 1988.

Comrades Hoang Bich Son, member of the CPV Central Committee and director of the CPV Central Committee's International Department; Prof Nguyen Vinh, president of the VUFA; and many representatives of the various state organs, mass organizations, and 22 VUFA chapters in the northern provinces and cities attended the conference.

At the conference, the VUFA Presidium accepted Prof Nguyen Vinh's request that he be allowed to resign from his position as president of the association on the grounds of poor health and appointed Comrade Dang Huu, member of the CPV Central Committee and chairman of the State Science and Technology Commission, as his successor.

Vo Nguyen Giap Receives Cuban Delegation

BK091541 Hanoi VNA in English 1510 GMT
9 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 9—A delegation of the Cuban National Energy Commission led by its permanent secretary, Fidel A. Castro Diaz-Balart, paid a visit to Vietnam from February 19-March 8 as guest of the Vietnam Institute of Atomic Energy.

While here, the guests paid tributes to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum, and visited his home and office in Hanoi. They also paid courtesy visits to Vietnamese party and state leaders, had working sessions with officials of the host organization and called at nuclear research establishment of Vietnam and the Vietnam Institute of Science.

The delegation was received by Vo Nguyen Giap, member of the party and vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers.

A cooperation agreement on using atomic energy for peaceful purposes was signed here on March 7 between Cuba and Vietnam.

Vo Chi Cong Receives Finnish Ambassador

BK081541 Hanoi VNA in English 1454 GMT
8 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi, VNA March 8—Finnish Ambassador to Vietnam Elisabeth Tigerstedt-Tahtila today paid a courtesy visit to State Council President Vo Chi Cong.

The Vietnamese leader had a cordial talk with the Finnish diplomat.

Hanoi Views Reaction to Canonization Issue

BK100945 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] During the past few days, there have been different reactions from a large number of the country's Catholics to the Vatican Holy See's decision to canonize 117 persons for having allegedly died for the religion in Vietnam; they include 21 Westerners and 96 Vietnamese who died under different circumstances during the period when French colonialism began its aggression against our country some 150 years ago.

It is generally believed that the canonization is creating complications because it rekindles old differences, is being exploited by evil elements, and is jeopardizing the

interests of the Vietnamese Catholic Church and people. The Vietnamese Episcopal Council and Catholic Church must take responsibility before history, public opinion, the nation, and the state and strive to overcome obstacles, errors, and shortcomings in turning the canonization of the blessed Vietnamese martyrs into a benediction and blissful occasion for the Vietnamese Catholic community now, as well as in the long run.

Vo Van Kiet Addresses Youth Union Meeting
BK091445 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 8 Mar 88

[Text] The Central Committee of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union [HCMCYU] met in Hanoi from 4 to 8 March to decide on the activity status of the Fifth Central Committee, elect its Standing Committee and Control Committee, strengthen the Central Council of the Ho Chi Minh Vanguard Teenagers Unit [HCMVTU], draft a youth law, and adopt the HCMCYU program of action for 1988.

Comrade Vo Van Kiet, member of the Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, attended and addressed the meeting.

In 1988, the HCMCYU's central tasks are to organize a movement of assault youth for creative activities on the socioeconomic front; implement the three major economic programs and the state plan; strengthen the union's economic activities and improve its operational apparatus; carry out cadre training and planning; build the HCMCYU and HCMVTU grass roots organizations; develop the Vietnam Youth Association; and motivate young people to actively participate in party building and take the lead in the party's major political campaign [for party purification], thereby achieving initial progress in renovating the contents and methods of the union's activities.

The HCMCYU will renovate and improve the quality of its activities aimed at broadening democracy, promoting openness, and encouraging criticism and self-criticism in the entire union. It will organize and motivate youth to play the leading role and display creativity in the economic field, to successfully implement the three major economic programs, to strengthen the building of the union's material bases, and to raise funds for the union's activities.

The HCMCYU will also enhance the quality of youth's study and training, encourage young people to participate in renovating socialist schools, step up the movement in support of the front line, promote the satisfactory implementation of the Army welfare policy, initiate a campaign to renovate the union's work style, improve the quality of union members, and build strong union chapters, thereby turning the union into an organization of the youth and for the youth.

Le Quang Dao Pays Visit to Quang Nam-Danang
BK100339 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 9 Mar 88

[Text] Comrade Le Quang Dao, member of the party Central Committee, chairman of the National Assembly, vice chairman of the Council of State, and member of the VFF Central Committee Presidium, recently paid a working visit to Quang Nam-Danang Province.

Comrade Le Quang Dao toured a number of production establishments and cooperatives, exchanged views with the local leaders on several concrete issues to help them unravel some entanglements in implementing the new management system, promoting autonomy in production and business transactions, practicing economic integration, and stabilizing workers' living conditions. They also discussed many other issues relating to the implementation of party resolutions.

Comrade Le Quang Dao paid close attention to the implementation by various localities of the regulations on organization and activities of the people's councils and VFF committees at various levels and on upholding and developing the people's right to mastery.

Comrade Le Quang Dao cordially addressed a number of retired veteran revolutionaries in Danang City, personally answered questions from the local people and cadres, and took note of their views and suggestions. He put special emphasis on the need to develop democracy and law-enforcement activities at the grass-roots level, to implement the new economic management system, to oppose the bureaucratic subsidy-based management system, to switch economic activities definitively to socialist accounting and business practices, to carry out the new state policy concerning the peasantry, to implement the regulations on people's council activities at various levels, and to strengthen and renovate VFF work to make it more effective.

Comrade Le Quang Dao reminded his audience that unity means strength and urged them to advance Quang Nam-Danang's revolutionary movement, step up production, care for the people's livelihood, and help the rest of the country overcome the current difficulties.

Australia

Normalized Relations With Fiji Discussed

BK100635 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Text] Australia's Foreign Affairs Department says events in Fiji are moving in the direction of Australia's interest. The department told a parliamentary committee that Australia had now normalized relations with Fiji.

Presenting a submission to the joint subcommittee on foreign affairs and defense, a deputy secretary of the department, Mr Philip Flood, said Fiji's civilian government seemed conscious of the need to move as quickly as possible to draft a new constitution.

Mr Flood said Australia's suspension of defense aid was now the only matter outstanding with Fiji. The foreign affairs deputy secretary said Australia saw no evidence that the American Central Intelligence Agency was involved in the overthrow of Dr Bavadra's government.

The head of the Foreign Affairs Department's South Pacific branch, Mr John Trotter, said Australia's Embassy in Suva was receiving about 8,000 applications a month to migrate to Australia. Mr Trotter said that last year some human rights abuses had occurred in Fiji, but they were limited.

The parliamentary committee is investigating Australia's relations with the South Pacific countries and regional, political, economic, and security issues.

New Zealand

Bolger Accused of Secret U.S. Negotiations

BK100821 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Text] New Zealand's prime minister, Mr Lange, has accused the opposition leader, Mr Bolger, of secretly renegotiating the country's foreign policy with the United States. Mr Lange made the remarks at a news conference in Wellington after a meeting in Washington between Mr Bolger and the American defense secretary, Mr Frank Carlucci.

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATED PRESS says the surprise meeting took place even though officials in Mr Lange's government had been refused access to senior Reagan administration figures since New Zealand banned port visits by nuclear-armed or nuclear-powered warships 3 years ago.

Mr Lange revealed at the news conference that the American Embassy in Wellington had been warned last week that the Washington meeting would be ill-advised.

Military Exercise in Western Samoa Planned

BK100547 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0500 GMT 10 Mar 88

[Text] New Zealand military forces will hold an exercise in Western Samoa from 24 April to 7 May. Radio Australia's correspondent in Apia, Felipe Var, says up to about 250 Army and Air Force personnel will take part along with New Zealand Navy frigate and aircraft.

Our correspondent quotes a New Zealand diplomat in Apia as saying the purpose of the exercise is to practice the rapid deployment of New Zealand forces to an island country. Our correspondent says that after the exercise, some of the New Zealand Air Force are expected to be made available to the Western Samoan Government for such purposes as aerial surveys, mapping, and photography.

NOTES

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The project was first proposed in fiscal 1987 in line with a call for the modernization of Japan's defense communications network, envisioned in the Defense Agency's mid-range defense buildup program for fiscal 1986-1990.

The Y80-billion (\$618.72 million) project, which will continue until fiscal 1997, will establish the SDF's air defense network system through the use of communications satellites and digitalization of microwave circuits.

The agency will use a U.S.-made communications satellite, the Superbird, to be launched by Space Communications Corp. in April 1989. The private satellite communications company has been established by Mitsubishi Corp. and Mitsubishi Electric Corp.

Space Communications Corp. will allow the SDF exclusive use of one of the Superbird's 35 transponders.

The Defense Agency has already received budgetary appropriation of Y4.75 billion (\$36.73 million) in fiscal 1988 to install receivers in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, Itami, Osaka Prefecture, and Kure, Yamaguchi Prefecture.

The SDF's military use of communications satellites is expected to spark reaction from opposition parties, which have insisted that such use runs counter to a 1969 Diet resolution limiting the development and utilization of objects and rockets to be launched into space for peaceful purposes.

The government had observed the Diet resolution by strictly limiting space activities to non-military purposes.

But the launch of the Sakura 2A, Japan's first communications satellite for practical use, in February 1983, prompted the Defense Agency to use the satellite for communications between the SDF's bases on the Japanese mainland and those on Iwojima, a remote island south of Tokyo.

This marked the first use of a satellite by the SDF. The agency also obtained budget appropriations in fiscal 1985 to procure receiving equipment to be installed on a Maritime Self-Defense Force (MSDF) escort ship for communications using Freesat U.S. military satellites.

The use of Freesats triggered strong criticism from opposition parties, which claimed it was a violation of the Diet resolution.

The government countered this opposition by saying the SDF's use of communications satellites should be approved when the satellites are used for non-military purposes.

The latest IDDN project thus does not represent any backtracking from this view, an official at the Defense Agency said.

New Defense Attache To Moscow Appointed
OW090644 Tokyo YOMIURI SHIMBUN
in Japanese 8 Mar 88 Morning Edition
p 3—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] On 7 March the Government decided to fill up a defense attache vacancy at the Japanese Embassy in Moscow. The position has been left vacant since August last year when the then attache left the country voluntarily at the request of the Soviet Union. The government has tentatively decided to appoint Captain Takuo Kobayashi of the Maritime Self-Defense Force [SDF] as the new defense attache. Captain Kobayashi is soon to be transferred from the Defense Agency to the Foreign Ministry before proceeding to his new post in April, at the earliest.

Last August, the Soviet Government requested that Nobuhiro Takeshima, former defense attache (MSDF captain) and first secretary at the Japanese Embassy in Moscow, leave the country voluntarily on grounds that he had engaged in spying activities in the vicinity of Odessa port, home port for the Black Sea Fleet.

Until the departure of the captain, there had been three military attaches assigned to the embassy in Moscow, one each from the Ground, Maritime, and Air SDF. The decision on the replacement this time came because to leave the position vacant too long is diplomatically undesirable.

The government will inform the Soviet Government soon of the decision through diplomatic channels. Unlike posting an ambassador, it is not necessary to apply for an agreement (approval of consent from the host nation) to appoint a military attache, and only normal diplomatic procedure is required.

Government Refuses Visas to North Koreans
OW100309 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese
9 Mar 88 Morning Edition p 1—FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] A government source disclosed 8 March that due to the sanctions taken in late January against the DPRK (North Korea) in connection with the KAL airliner incident, the Japanese Embassy in Beijing has turned down all applications for entry by North Koreans in connection with the promotion of trade. About 10 North Koreans have given up their plan to visit Japan and returned to North Korea. Meanwhile, since the sanctions were taken, no Japanese concerned with trade have been admitted into North Korea. Thus, there now seems to be a serious obstacle to economic exchanges at the private-sector level.

The government announced the sanctions against North Korea on 26 January. According to the sanctions, North Korean government officials are prohibited, in principle, from entry into Japan. In addition, the government has indicated its stern position on strict examination of applications for entry by non-government officials from North Korea.

According to the government source, at the time the sanctions were taken, North Koreans concerned with trade who wanted to visit Japan on business applied for visas at the Japanese Embassy in Beijing; but all their applications were turned down.

According to the Japanese side, "It does not mean that their entry was rejected, but much time was spent on examining the documents as some doubtful points in the documents that used to be overlooked in the past have been examined rather strictly this time," (in the words of a Foreign Ministry leading official). On the other hand, according to those concerned with relations between the two countries, the North Korean side has reportedly taken the decision as actual "rejection of entry" and all applicants have left Beijing for home country.

According to the same Foreign Ministry leading official, no Japanese concerned with trade have applied to the Foreign Ministry for passports to visit North Korea since the sanctions were taken.

As the relations between the two countries have deteriorated, the Foreign Ministry has called on private citizens to refrain from visiting North Korea. However, "no applications have been made because in applying for passports, the Japanese concerned with trade can not submit invitations from North Korea that are requested in applying for passports", (according to the same leading official). And it is observed that the North Korean side has also taken the position of giving strict examination of Japanese private citizens' application for entry into North Korea.

The government's sanctions against North Korea have been actually applied to one case so far. As has been disclosed, crew members, including the captain, of a North Korean cargo-passenger ship that entered Yokohama port on 1 February were not allowed to land.

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